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Xi stresses need for inclusive growth

In speech at G20 Summit, he calls food, energy security most pressing global issues

By XU WEI in Bali, Indonesia
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President Xi Jinping emphasized on Tuesday the need to make global development more inclusive, beneficial to all and more resilient, as he called on Group of 20 members to lead by example in promoting common development and jointly improving the well-being of mankind.

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In a speech delivered at the first session of the 17th G20 Summit in Bali, Indonesia, Xi underlined food and energy security as the most pressing challenges in global development, calling upon nations to resolutely oppose attempts to politicize food and energy issues or use them as tools or weapons.

"We meet at a time of momentous changes unseen in a century, changes that are consequential to the world, to our times, and to history," Xi told a roomful of global leaders from economies that represent over 80 percent of global GDP, 75 percent of international trade and 60 percent of the world's population.

Xi noted challenges including the lingering COVID-19 pandemic, the tense geopolitical environment and severely inadequate global governance, saying that the food and energy crises have compounded each other.

"All countries should replace division with unity, confrontation with cooperation, and exclusion with inclusiveness," he said.

He emphasized that drawing ideological lines or promoting group politics and bloc confrontation will only divide the world, and hinder global development and human progress.

"No one should engage in beggar-thy-neighbor practices, building 'a small yard with high fences', or creating closed and exclusive clubs," the president said.

He called upon developed nations to provide more public goods and all major countries to do their best for the cause of global development.

Xi announced that Beijing will increase its commitments to the China-UN Peace and Development Fund, and the nation will make a list of items for practical cooperation, set up an open-ended pool of projects under the Global Development Initiative, and draw up a road map for the initiative's implementation.

"We need to build a global partnership for economic recovery, prioritize development and put the people at the center, always keep in mind the difficulties faced by developing countries, and accommodate their concerns," he said.

He expressed China's support for letting the African Union join the G20.

As part of the effort to continue deepening global cooperation on fighting the pandemic, Xi highlighted the need to raise the accessibility to and affordability of vaccines, medicines and diagnostic and treatment methods in developing countries to better facilitate economic recovery.

Xi underlined that the root cause of the ongoing food and energy crises does not lie in production or demand, but in disruptions to supply chains and international cooperation.

He pointed out that the way out of the crises is for all countries to enhance cooperation on market supervision and regulation, build partnerships on commodities, develop an open, stable and sustainable commodities market, and work together to unclog supply chains and stabilize market prices.

Unilateral sanctions must be removed and restrictions on relevant scientific and technological cooperation must be lifted to solve the issues, he added.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo, the chair of the summit, emphasized the need to immediately take steps to ensure sufficient availability of fertilizer at an affordable price, warning that high food prices could worsen, leading to a food supply crisis.

He also underlined the responsibility of the G20 leaders not only to their own people but also for all the world's people. "We should not divide the world into parts. We must not allow the world to fall into another Cold War," Widodo said.

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva highlighted the need to remove trade barriers for food and fertilizers to counter the suffering of hundreds of millions of people.

"We must not allow protectionism to take root, and the world to drift into separate blocs," she said, adding that the organization's calculations indicate that a world divided would lose at least 1.5 percent of GDP annually.

Lili Yan Ing, lead adviser at the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia, a think tank in Jakarta, said the commitments of President Xi and China, one of the world's largest economies and political powers, are crucial to ensuring global political and economic stability.

China's commitments are particularly important because the nation has the resources, institutions and human capital to solve pressing issues, she said.

President Xi Jinping walks to the venue of the 17th summit of the Group of 20 in Bali, Indonesia, on Tuesday. Xi delivered a speech titled "Working Together to Meet the Challenges of Our Times and Build a Better Future" at the summit. JU PENG / XINHUA

Xi's quotes

- Division and confrontation serve no one's interest. Only solidarity and common development is the right choice to make.
- Prosperity and stability cannot be possible in a world where the rich become richer while the poor are made poorer.
- All major countries should perform their due responsibilities, and do their best for the cause of global development.
- We must resolutely oppose the attempt to politicize food and energy issues or use them as tools and weapons. Unilateral sanctions must be removed, and restrictions on relevant scientific and technological cooperation must be lifted.
- A China marching toward modernization will bring more opportunities to the world, inject stronger momentum for international cooperation, and make a greater contribution to human progress.
- G20 members must maintain zero tolerance for corruption, step up international cooperation on fugitive repatriation and asset recovery, and refuse to provide "safe havens" to corrupt individuals and assets.

China, US chart a path forward for bilateral ties

By XU WEI in Bali, Indonesia and ZHAO HUANXIN in Washington

The first face-to-face meeting between President Xi Jinping and United States President Joe Biden has charted the path for improving ties between the world's two largest economies and bringing stability and certainty to a turbulent and volatile world, officials and analysts said.

The two leaders greeted each other on Monday with a smile and a warm handshake before holding a meeting that lasted for over three hours — longer than scheduled and using simultaneous interpretation — on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Bali, Indonesia.

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Xi and Biden emphasized the global implications of China-US relations, underscored the importance of establishing guiding principles for bilateral ties and said they hoped to push the relations back to a steady track from a downward spiral, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi told a news briefing after the meeting.

They agreed to bolster dialogue and exchanges and promote pragmatic cooperation, which charted the way forward for the relations and will help bring the ties gradually back to a track of healthy and stable development, Wang said.

Wang, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, said the meeting made clear that both sides should prevent the relations from losing direction or speed, still less having a collision, and should find the right way to get along.

The two leaders also exchanged views on the Ukraine issue, with the Chinese president underscoring the urgency of a peaceful settlement of the crisis.

*See **Ties**, page 2*

Olympic mascots unveiled

The mascots of the 2024 Paris Olympic Games (left) and Paralympic Games are unveiled on Monday in Saint-Denis, north of Paris. The mascots are a modern interpretation of a Phrygian cap, conical headwear that symbolizes the French republic.
THIBAULT CAMUS / AP

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Optimization of COVID policy to boost resumption of aviation industry

By LUO WANGSHU
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China's latest optimization of its dynamic zero-COVID protocols will aid the early resumption of its civil aviation industry, officials and experts said.

Aiming for more scientific, targeted and accurate virus containment, China rolled out 20 measures last week to upgrade epidemic control, and many of them are related to the hard-hit civil aviation industry.

The measures include cancellation of the "circuit breaker" policy — the suspension of air carriers' operations for two weeks when five or more passengers tested positive for the novel coronavirus upon landing in China, or four weeks if 10 or more passengers tested positive.

They also reduce COVID-19 quarantines for incoming travelers and close contacts from 10 to eight days, and inbound travelers will be asked to provide one negative result instead of two from nucleic acid testing conducted no more than 48 hours before boarding.

Although the policy reduced the spread of the virus, the possible cancellation of planned flights led to uncertainty in the rate of flights.

Shortly after the new measures were announced, Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said he believed they will help improve cross-border tourism and travel, and ease the travel of global investors to China.

Zhao made the comment during a news conference shortly after the measures were announced.

Song Zhiyong, head of the Civil Aviation Administration of China, said at a recent news conference that the administration, in line with the national strategy, will promote the recovery of the international air passenger market, improve the capacity and competitiveness of international air cargo, and continue to enhance the influence of Chinese civil aviation in the international community.

Li Xiaojin, a professor of aviation economics at Civil Aviation University in Tianjin, said the revisions are good news for international flight passengers and cargo shippers.

In addition, they "can greatly improve the rate of international flights, reducing the airlines' cost from the uncertainty of operating those flights," he said.

An improved rate of flights will also increase the stability of airlines' income, enabling them to offer lower ticket fares and cargo prices to attract passengers and cargo owners, he said.

According to VariFlight, a China-based civil aviation data service provider, searches for international flight information have increased greatly since the new measures were adopted. Searches for some routes, such as inbound flights from Japan and the United Kingdom, have increased up to fourfold.

Qi Qi, an associate professor at Guangzhou Civil Aviation College, said that although available flight numbers and flight certainty are thus improved, the demand for international travel remains uncertain.

GOLD MEDALS POINT WAY FOR SKILLED WORKERS

Success in international event evidence of sound vocational education

By YE ZIZHEN in Beijing, ZHU YOUFANG in Changsha and QIU QUANLIN in Guangzhou

A 22-year-old student from Zhejiang province tasted success at a global skills competition staged recently in the French city of Bordeaux.

Ma Hongda became the first Chinese to win the plastering and drywall systems event at the WorldSkills Competition 2022 Special Edition.

indepth

The competition is widely viewed as the "Olympic Games" for skills, and its special editions replaced the canceled WorldSkills Shanghai 2022, with 62 events staged in a total of 15 countries and regions from September to this month.

As of Monday, the Chinese team had won 15 gold, three silver and three bronze medals in events that included cabinetmaking and 3D digital gaming art.

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VISIT…

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XI'S VISIT

Wang: China keeping fair position on Ukraine issue

Nation notes that Russia has interest in peace talks, foreign minister says

By **ZHAO JIA**
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China has noted that Russia signaled interest in dialogue and agreed to resume the implementation of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Tuesday.

China will continue holding an objective and fair position and playing a constructive role in promoting peace talks on the Ukraine issue, Wang said when meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on the sidelines of the 17th G20 Summit in Bali, Indonesia.

Wang, a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, elaborated on China's position on the issue, saying that "the four points" and "the four things" proposed by President Xi Jinping are the country's fundamental guidelines for addressing the issue.

In March, Xi proposed "the four points" in a virtual meeting with leaders of France and Germany about what must be done soon after the outbreak of the Ukraine crisis. During his talks with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in this month, Xi put forward "the four things" that the international community must do together on the crisis.

Wang said China has noted that Moscow has recently reiterated its long-standing position that nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought, which has shown Russia's rational and responsible attitude.

At the meeting, Wang expressed China's willingness to work with Russia to coordinate high-level exchanges and exchanges in various fields, deepen practical cooperation and facilitate exchanges of personnel.

He also stressed that China would resolutely advance a multipolar world, support democracy in international relations, and uphold the international system with the United Nations at its core, together with Russia and other like-minded countries.

Lavrov, for his part, said Russia always maintains an open attitude toward dialogue and negotiation on the Ukraine issue.

Russia will join forces with China to further consolidate the sound momentum of high-level exchanges, maintain the continuity of a comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination, and fully unlock the potential of Russia-China relations, he added.

The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening communication and coordination under multilateral frameworks such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and BRICS.

They also exchanged views on the situation in the Asia-Pacific region, the Korean Peninsula issue, and the Iran nuclear issue, among others.

Peace Ark hospital ship treats patients in Jakarta

By **JIANG CHENGLONG**
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Peace Ark, the Chinese Navy's hospital ship, has started giving free medical services after docking in Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia, following a nearly 200-hour voyage.

Among the services it provides are surgeries and diagnoses and treatment of frequently occurring diseases, the People's Liberation Army Navy said in a news release on Friday.

On Friday, the first day of the week of free services, hundreds of local people went to the hospital ship at the wharf in Jakarta's Tanjung Priok port for diagnosis, the Navy said. The following day, four local people underwent surgeries conducted on the vessel by five doctors and three nurses.

Peace Ark's hospital has 111 doctors and nurses, 14 clinical departments, three auxiliary diagnostic departments, a pharmacy and a shipborne helicopter ambulance.

The hospital ship's Indonesia visit is the main part of its Mission Harmony-2022, which was announced by China's Defense Ministry earlier this month. It's not the first time that the ship has berthed in the Southeast Asian country. Nine years ago, *Peace Ark* visited eight Asian countries, including Indonesia, during its Mission Harmony-2013.

The Chinese Navy said the mission is of great importance in demonstrating China acting as a responsible major country with a peace-loving military, and to further deepen the friendly relations between China, Indonesia and their militaries.

Rear Admiral Qiu Wensheng, commander of Mission Harmony-2022, outlined the achievements made in the countries' bilateral relations in recent years at a welcoming ceremony in Jakarta on Thursday, noting that China and Indonesia have a long history of exchanges.

He said the crew of *Peace Ark* would continue to operate in the Red Cross' spirit of "humanity, fraternity and dedication" and serve the Indonesian people with superb medical skills.

Deng Qiang, captain of *Peace Ark*, had taken part in such missions four times before. He said all of the ship's sailors would resolutely fulfill their mission and contribute to safeguarding world peace and promoting common development and the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

"We have cared for life, sown the seeds of friendship throughout the world and maintained world peace by healing the wounded and rescuing the dying, which is humanitarian," Deng said.

Peace Ark was commissioned in 2008. The vessel is the Chinese military's first hospital ship that has a displacement of more than 10,000 metric tons. It has engaged in nine overseas missions, sailing about 240,000 nautical miles and serving more than 230,000 people in 43 countries and regions around the world, the Chinese military said.

Peng Liyuan (center), wife of President Xi Jinping, greets performers of a local dance show as she walks with other leaders' spouses at the G20 Summit Spouse Program in Bali, Indonesia, on Tuesday. DING LIN / XINHUA

Peng Liyuan attends spouses' event

By **WANG QINGYUN**
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Peng Liyuan, wife of President Xi Jinping, joined an event for the spouses of leaders attending the Group of 20 Summit on Tuesday morning in Bali, Indonesia, and voiced hope for strengthened cooperation between China and Indonesia.

Upon arrival, Peng was warmly welcomed by Indonesian first lady Iriana Joko Widodo, the organizer of the event, and posed for a picture with her.

Peng watched a local dance show with other leaders' spouses, and posed for a group photo with the sea in the background.

Accompanied by the Indonesian first lady, Peng visited an exhibition of local musical instruments, garments, rattan work, embroidery and food, and participated in palm-frond weaving. Peng printed the logo of the G20 Bali Summit and the flower image of the event on a woven bag.

Peng praised Indonesia's approach of integrating craft skills with the empowerment of women, poverty alleviation and environmental protection.

She said China and Indonesia can strengthen exchanges and cooperation in those fields to contribute to regional efforts to alleviate poverty and protect the environment by developing relevant industries.

Sino-Indonesian trade benefits region, world

By **LIU ZHIHUA**
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Closer China-Indonesia economic and trade cooperation will benefit the two countries and add new growth momentum to the regional and world economy, experts and business leaders said, adding that the two populous developing countries share huge trade complementarity, entwined interests and great economic cooperation potential.

Since Julong Group, whose headquarters are in Tianjin, started operations in Indonesia in 2006, it has established oil palm plantations covering nearly 66,700 hectares. It also operates four palm oil factories, two palm kernel crushing plants, one packaging factory and eight river ports in the Southeast Asian country.

Palm oil and other products in its seven factories are forecast to have a total value of 1.6 billion yuan ($230 million) this year. Of that, palm kernel oil and meal worth 300 million yuan are expected to be exported to China, and the rest will be sold on the Indonesian market, said Lei Wenzhong, CEO of the company's Indonesian branch.

According to China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China and Indonesia's bilateral trade surged to $124.43 billion in 2021, increasing nearly 60 percent on a yearly basis.

Indonesia was also China's second-largest outbound investment destination in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations last year.

"Thanks to the stronger bilateral ties between China and Indonesia, confidence of Chinese investors in Indonesia is growing, which in turn adds impetus to the economic and trade cooperation between the two countries," Lei said.

As the world's fourth-most-populous country, Indonesia has not only rich resources but also a huge market for Chinese enterprises to tap mutually beneficial investment and trade cooperation, he added.

A visitor takes a selfie at an automobile exhibition showcasing vehicles made by Chinese manufacturer Dongfeng Xiaokang in Tangerang, Indonesia, in August. XU QIN / XINHUA

Xu Ningning, executive president of the China-ASEAN Business Council, said cooperation between the two countries has provided valuable wisdom for not only the region but also the world to cope with the ongoing challenges and complexities.

Indonesia ratified the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership agreement on Aug 30 and the agreement will take effect in the country within the year. According to Xu, that will enable the country to receive more investment in downstream industries, particularly in the commodity processing sector.

The RCEP took effect on Jan 1, creating the world's largest free trade bloc.

Zhou Mi, a senior researcher at the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation in Beijing, said China and Indonesia have huge cooperation potential in industrial and supply chain coordination, infrastructure construction and e-commerce development, as they have differentiated supply and demand advantages.

Experts also said the two need to further deepen Belt and Road cooperation and ensure good implementation of major cooperation projects — for example with the high-standard construction of the Jakarta-Bandung high-speed railway — and to step up cooperation in the health and pharmaceutical industry.

Chinese vaccine maker Sinovac Biotech said Indonesia was one of the first countries to approve its COVID-19 vaccine, and the company has been supporting large-scale vaccination programs in Indonesia since then.

It has provided more than 280 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Indonesia, more than 130 million doses of which were exported as bulk vaccine to be locally processed and packaged.

China's Abogen Biosciences said it plans to build a joint venture in Indonesia with the Indonesian biotech company Etana to tap the country's pharmaceutical market and accelerate its going-global strategy while at the same time helping Indonesia upgrade its biomedicine industry.

The company has already transferred the manufacturing technology of its mRNA COVID-19 vaccine to Etana. That makes Indonesia one of the few countries able to develop high-end pharmaceutical products via the mRNA technology.

Ties: Meeting 'reached its expected purpose'

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"In all, the meeting reached its expected purpose of in-depth communication, clarifying intentions, drawing red lines, preventing conflicts, pointing the way forward and exploring cooperation," Wang said.

The two leaders agreed that both sides will conduct dialogue over macroeconomic policies and bilateral trade, and enable positive outcomes from the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, or COP27.

They also highlighted the need to implement the cooperation document on public health and agriculture and expand people-to-people exchanges in various sectors.

Erik Solheim, former undersecretary general of the United Nations, said the meeting between Xi and Biden went beyond expectations, given that China-US relations are critical for world peace and the environment.

"This is the best global news for a long time," he said. "China-US relations are not a zero-sum game. The world is big enough for them to prosper together."

Craig Allen, president of the US-China Business Council, said on Monday that amid the current atmosphere of bilateral tension, the meeting underlined the importance of the bilateral relationship to the two countries and the world.

"Regular and close bilateral contact is indispensable for responsibly managing competition, lowering the temperature of the relationship, and working together to address issues of shared interest," he said.

The US-China Business Council, which represents more than 280 US companies that do business with China, fully supports Washington's and Beijing's mutual interest in seeking to stabilize relations and working collaboratively as global leaders as much as possible, Allen said in a statement.

"We hope a new framework can take shape to advance confidence-building measures and tackle long-standing issues in the bilateral relationship," he added.

Allen said he hoped that commercial issues will be on the agenda when cabinet-level officials from both countries hold further discussions.

A commitment to open lines of communication at all official levels, Biden's declaration to avoid a new Cold War, and a joint renunciation of nuclear threats are the three best outcomes of the summit, said Gary Hufbauer, a former US Treasury Department official and nonresident senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington.

"From a business perspective, these announcements should reduce fears of a continuing downward spiral in US-China relations," Hufbauer told China Daily.

Regarding priorities for follow-up in the areas of business and trade, in order to implement the consensuses reached between Biden and Xi, Hufbauer said the first order of business should be to dismantle the tariffs imposed by the administration of former US president Donald Trump on imports of goods from China, with reciprocal dismantling by China.

The second order of business should be to draw lines around "national security" industrial sectors so that this label is not used to restrict an ever-widening scope of bilateral trade, he said.

Su Xiaohui, deputy director of the China Institute of International Studies' Department of American Studies, said the two presidents' sit-down was constructive and conveyed a clear message that it is important for both nations to avoid misjudgment.

"Beijing has made clear proposals for the steady and healthy growth of ties with Washington, and the US must meet China halfway," she said, adding that China has again clarified its bottom line in the bilateral Sino-US relationship, especially in safeguarding its sovereignty and security and development interests.

Douglas H. Paal, a distinguished fellow in the Asia Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said that reestablishing working groups is positive for improving bilateral relations, because they helped resolve practical problems in Biden's first year.

With US Secretary of State Antony Blinken planning to travel to China for follow-up discussions, communication should be more regular, Paal said.

Sourabh Gupta, a senior fellow at the Washington-based Institute for China-America Studies, said the meeting reestablished a baseline of in-person, leader-led communications, restarted senior official-level dialogue channels and was an attempt by the leaders to reassure each other about their strategic intentions.

He said that, as a proverb goes, the proof of the pudding will be in its eating.

"The problem, after all, is not a lack of positively expressed intentions ... but the inability or unwillingness to translate these intentions into actual policy at the US end," Gupta said.

"So we will have to wait and see how the 'pudding' tastes this time around," he said.

Zhengyu Huang, president of the Committee of 100, a nonprofit organization of prominent Chinese Americans, said that while nothing can be completed in one meeting, what can result is a better understanding of each country's position on key issues and the search to find common ground.

"The US and China both face transnational challenges such as food supply, energy security, climate change and global peace. The two countries must work to reduce mutual misunderstandings and strive toward tangible solutions that benefit the world," Huang said.

Tom Watkins, president and chief executive officer of TDW and Associates, a US-based business and education consulting firm, said it is praiseworthy that the two presidents are taking steps that raise hopes of propelling the world forward.

"Leadership matters," Watkins said. "Peace and prosperity over confrontation and conflict — this is what the people of China, the USA and all of humanity are looking for."

Chen Weihua in Brussels and Yifan Xu in Washington contributed to this story.

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XI'S VISIT

President meets with world leaders in Bali

Editor's note: *President Xi Jinping held a number of bilateral meetings on Tuesday with world leaders on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Bali, Indonesia. The following are highlights of the face-to-face talks:*

France

Emmanuel Macron

During his meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron, President Xi Jinping said the two leaders had maintained close communication in a number of ways, keeping the positive momentum in China-France relations and enabling important bilateral cooperation to make good progress.

Noting the world has entered a new period of turbulence and change, Xi said that as two major forces in a multipolar world, China and France, as well as China and Europe, should uphold the spirit of independence, openness and cooperation, promote the steady and sustained development of their bilateral relations on the right track, and inject stability and positive energy into the world.

Xi underscored that China, in its efforts to unswervingly pursue high-level opening-up and move forward on the Chinese path to modernization, will provide new opportunities to various countries, including France.

The two sides should bolster top-level planning with an eye to the future, respect each other's core interests and major concerns and deepen pragmatic cooperation, he said.

He highlighted the need to keep working toward progress in traditional sectors and actively tapping into the potential for cooperation in green energy and innovation in science and technology. Beijing hopes Paris can offer a fair, just and non-discriminatory business environment for Chinese companies, Xi added.

China and Europe have now formed a robust economic coexistence, and the two sides should expand two-way trade and investment, ensure stable and unimpeded global industrial and supply chains, and uphold the rules and order in global trade and the economy, he said.

Xi expressed hope that Paris can push the European Union to continue following an independent and positive China policy.

China stands ready to work with France to ensure the G20 Bali Summit is a success, bolster communication and coordination in responding to climate change and biodiversity protection, uphold true multilateralism, respond to global challenges such as food and energy security, and solve the difficult issues involved in sustainable development, he said.

Macron offered his congratulations to Xi on his reelection as general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee.

France upholds independence in diplomacy, opposes bloc confrontation and hopes to continue adhering to a spirit of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, he said. It also hopes to conduct closer high-level exchanges and deepen cooperation on the economy, trade, aviation and civilian nuclear energy, Macron added.

The two leaders also exchanged views on the Ukraine issue. Xi reiterated Beijing's position of advocating a cease-fire, putting an end to the conflict and beginning peace talks. He said that the international community should work toward these outcomes and China will continue playing constructive roles in its own way.

South Africa

Cyril Ramaphosa

Xi said that China and South Africa enjoy a special friendship featuring comradeship and brotherhood as he met with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Both countries are important major developing countries and they resolutely uphold international fairness and justice as well as the shared interests of developing countries, Xi said.

China always views its relations with South Africa from a strategic perspective, and stands ready to consolidate political mutual trust with South Africa and jointly push for greater development of the comprehensive strategic partnership between them, he said.

He stressed that the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, which was held in October, had made it a central task to build a modern socialist country in all respects and advance national rejuvenation through the Chinese path to modernization.

Xi added he is confident that China's development will bring about greater opportunities to countries from around the world, including South Africa.

He said that China is willing to strengthen exchanges with South Africa about governance experiences and supports South Africa in exploring a path toward modernization suited to its national conditions.

He called for strengthening synergies between China's Belt and Road Initiative and the South African Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, deepening bilateral cooperation in trade, investment and energy, and pushing for the achievements under the framework of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation to be translated into concrete benefit in South Africa.

China supports Chinese companies investing and doing business in South Africa and is willing to increase imports of good-quality products from South Africa, Xi said.

Noting that China supports South Africa's assuming the rotating presidency of BRICS, the grouping of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, Xi expressed China's willingness to work with South Africa to intensify unity and cooperation between China and Africa, develop closer coordination in international affairs, and jointly cope with global challenges regarding climate change, food security and energy security.

Ramaphosa congratulated Xi again on his reelection as general secretary of the CPC Central Committee as well as the success of the 20th CPC National Congress and China's great development accomplishments.

Ramaphosa thanked China for its assistance to African countries, including South Africa, in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic and its aid to African countries in relieving their debt crisis.

Calling China an important strategic partner of South Africa, Ramaphosa said his country will continue to adhere to the one-China principle.

South Africa stands ready to learn from China's experiences in green development and energy transformation, actively participate in the joint building of the Belt and Road, and open its door wider to Chinese companies for investment and cooperation, he said.

Senegal

Macky Sall

China is willing to join hands with Senegal on its path toward development and prosperity and offer mutual support on issues regarding each other's sovereignty, security and development interests, Xi said while meeting with Senegalese President Macky Sall.

Beijing stands ready to further its support for Senegal's construction of infrastructure such as motorways and industrial parks, he said.

China is also ready to increase its imports of Senegal's agricultural products and step up cooperation on peanut and rice production, he added.

The two countries share consensuses on a number of major issues, such as championing world peace and promoting common development, Xi said, adding that China supports the initiative of the African Union joining the G20.

The Senegalese president offered his congratulations to Xi on his reelection as general secretary of the CPC Central Committee.

Sall said the CPC is a great party with a glorious history, and China is a great country sticking to its principles and enjoying widespread respect. The country is also a faithful and reliable friend of African nations, Sall added.

China has always been on the side of African countries in areas ranging from agriculture and water resources to infrastructure, education and health, including the united fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, he noted.

Sall expressed his appreciation for the precious help China offers to Senegal and other African countries, and he thanked China for being the first to publicly support the African Union joining the G20.

African countries' staunch support for China on issues related to the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region illustrates the high quality of mutual trust and the high level of relations between Africa and China, Sall said.

At the meeting, Xi noted that the two countries are important cooperative partners and are both co-chairs of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation.

With the joint efforts of both sides, China's relations with Senegal, and all of Africa, have witnessed remarkable development. Political mutual trust has constantly deepened and pragmatic cooperation has yielded fruitful results, Xi said.

China will continue to act with sincerity, good faith and amity and pursue principles for the greater good and shared interests, he said.

Beijing will reinforce solidarity and cooperation with African countries, including Senegal, and join hands in building a China-Africa community with a shared future in the new era, he added.

The Senegalese president said his country is satisfied with the progress made by FOCAC and is willing to further advance cooperation within the framework of the forum.

Republic of Korea

Yoon Suk-yeol

While meeting with Republic of Korea President Yoon Suk-yeol, Xi said that China is willing to work with the ROK to better uphold, consolidate and develop their ties to create greater stability for the region and the world at large.

Xi said that China and the ROK are close neighbors that cannot be moved away from each other and also cooperative partners that cannot be separated. The two countries shoulder important responsibilities in safeguarding regional peace and promoting global prosperity, and they share extensive converging interests, he added.

Noting that this year marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries, Xi said the 30 years of history has demonstrated that the healthy and stable development of China-ROK ties conforms to the fundamental interests of people from both countries.

He underlined the need for both countries to strengthen strategic communication and enhance political mutual trust.

Saying that the economies of China and the ROK are highly complementary, Xi called for advancing the alignment of the countries' development strategies to seek common development and prosperity.

The two countries should step up negotiations on a free-trade agreement, intensify cooperation in the fields of high-technology manufacturing, big data and green economy, and jointly uphold the international free trade system, he said.

While highlighting the importance of ensuring secure, stable and smooth global industrial and supply chains, Xi called on the ROK to oppose politicizing economic cooperation and undermining economic cooperation under the pretext of a security issue.

China stands ready to promote cultural and people-to-people exchanges and cooperation with the ROK, strengthen communication and coordination under the framework of the G20, jointly practice true multilateralism and uphold the overall situation of peace and stability in the region, he added.

Yoon said that the ROK is willing to take the 30th anniversary as an opportunity to develop mature and mutually beneficial relations with China based on mutual respect, and this is in the interests of both countries.

The ROK hopes to maintain exchanges with China at various levels, strengthen cultural and people-to-people interactions, enhance the people's friendship, and work with China to safeguard the free-trade system and cope with global challenges, he added.

Argentina

Alberto Fernandez

While meeting with Argentine President Alberto Fernandez, Xi called on China and Argentina to accelerate the development of jointly building the Belt and Road and deepen bilateral cooperation in such areas as agriculture, energy, infrastructure and space.

The two sides should also carry out exchanges and cooperation in various fields including culture, media, education, sports and youth, he said, adding that China is willing to import more quality products from Argentina.

As this year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, Xi said it is a crucial year in the history of the China-Argentina relationship that builds on the past achievements and ushers in a brighter future.

He noted that China and Argentina are both developing countries and emerging economies. The two sides should plan for the development of bilateral ties from a strategic level and strive for the progress of their comprehensive strategic partnership, Xi added.

He said China is ready to strengthen exchanges with Argentina on sharing governance experience, support each other to follow a development path that suits their respective national conditions and also meets people's expectations, and support each other to safeguard sovereignty, security and development interests.

Xi also expressed China's willingness to work with Argentina to deepen its relationship with Latin America in the new era, a relationship that features equality, mutual benefit, innovation and openness, and is beneficial to the people.

He also called on the two sides to closely coordinate on multilateral platforms such as the G20, practice true multilateralism and implement the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative.

Fernandez congratulated Xi again on his reelection as the general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, saying that his country is anticipating further deepening the China-Argentina relationship.

He said that Argentina will always be the friend and brother of China and firmly supports China to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Argentina is willing to promote cooperation with China in trade, the economy, finance and other areas, to push forward the development of the Belt and Road and to build a China-Latin America community with a shared future, Fernandez said.

He also said that his country hopes to strengthen coordination and cooperation with China under multilateral frameworks such as BRICS and to actively promote Latin American countries' relations with China.

Netherlands

Mark Rutte

China and the Netherlands should continue their commitment to opening-up and pragmatism, as they have done over the past 50 years since the establishment of ambassadorial diplomatic ties, Xi said while meeting with Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte.

The two sides should promote high-level exchanges, consolidate political mutual trust, manage the right way forward of bilateral ties and adhere to mutually beneficial, win-win results, Xi said.

He said the two countries should advance cooperation in areas such as agriculture, irrigation and energy, and strive for greater development of their open and practical comprehensive cooperative partnership.

Xi stressed that the world is integrated and all countries should carry out cooperation with each other, instead of seeking "decoupling".

Any politicization of trade and economic issues must be opposed in order to maintain the stability of global industrial and supply chains, he said.

To jointly build a favorable global environment for development, Xi said China is ready to uphold and practice true multilateralism with the Netherlands, stick to the right direction of economic globalization and safeguard the multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization at its core.

He also expressed the hope that the Dutch side will push for the European Union to stick with opening-up and cooperation, and play a positive role for promoting the sound and stable development of China-EU ties.

Rutte said he was glad to meet again with Xi in the year that marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of ambassadorial diplomatic ties, which was celebrated by both sides with multiple events.

As part of the celebrations, the first full Dutch translation of *Dream of the Red Chamber*, a Chinese literary masterpiece, was completed by Dutch Sinologists and translators after 13 years of arduous work.

Rutte said he remembered Xi's state visit to the Netherlands in 2014, and hoped to keep close exchanges with China and to maintain the strong momentum of the China-Netherlands relationship.

The Netherlands is ready to focus on the big picture of its relations with China, tap potential for cooperation and expand dialogue and cooperation in fields including innovation and climate change, to push for greater achievements in bilateral ties in the next 50 years, Rutte said.

Australia

Anthony Albanese

While meeting with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Xi called on the two countries to improve, maintain and develop bilateral ties as this not only conforms to the fundamental interests of both their peoples, but also helps promote peace and development in the Asia-Pacific region and the world at large.

During the first formal meeting between the two countries' leaders in six years, Xi said that the China-Australia relationship once led China's relations with developed countries and is worthy of being cherished by both sides.

The difficulties in bilateral ties in recent years are not what both two sides wish to see, he said.

As this year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Australia, Xi said a mature and stable relationship should first be reflected in considering their differences and disputes in a correct way.

The key to realizing the steady development of the China-Australia relationship is to transcend differences, respect each other and achieve mutual benefits and win-win results, he said.

Xi said there are no conflicts of fundamental interests between the two countries, and they have a traditional friendship between their peoples and highly complementary economic structures.

The two sides also share the common appeal to uphold the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, he said.

Xi said China pays attention to the willingness to improve and develop bilateral relations shown by the Australian side. The two sides should draw lessons from the past and discuss how to bring the China-Australia relationship back on the right track and push forward its sustainable development, he added.

Noting that there remains huge potential for economic and trade cooperation, Xi said China hopes the Australian side will provide a good business environment for Chinese enterprises to invest and do business there.

Albanese said the comprehensive strategic partnership between Australia and China fits the common interests of both sides.

As the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties falls next month, Australia is willing to work with China to narrow differences through constructive and candid dialogues, promote the steady development of bilateral ties and carry out more cooperation on important issues such as climate change, trade and the economy, Albanese said.

Spain

Pedro Sanchez

China and Spain need to maintain high-level communications and consolidate mutual trust, Xi said during a meeting with Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez.

Both countries should understand and support each other on issues related to their core interests in sovereignty and security, as well as development interests, Xi said.

He noted that next year will be the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries. China-Spain ties have developed in a healthy way over almost half a century as both sides adhere to mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, and pursue the right path, which enables countries with different cultures and systems to get along well, Xi said.

China's efforts to advance Chinese modernization and pursue high-quality development will bring about new development opportunities for the world, including Spain, he said. China is willing to work with Spain to take their comprehensive strategic partnership to a new stage.

While stressing the importance of promoting friendship between the two countries, Xi called for boosting pragmatic cooperation. He welcomed Spanish companies and goods entering the Chinese market, and expressed hope that Spain will provide Chinese enterprises with fair, equitable, transparent and non-discriminatory market treatment.

China stands ready to strengthen communication and coordination with Spain within multilateral frameworks, including the G20, and jointly deal with challenges arising from climate change and food and energy security, Xi said.

He also expressed hope that Spain will play a positive role in promoting the healthy and steady development of China-Europe ties.

Sanchez again congratulated Xi on his reelection as general secretary of the CPC Central Committee.

Saying China is a stabilizer of the international order, the Spanish prime minister agreed with Xi on his advocating solidarity and cooperation at the G20 Summit to cope with global challenges as well as his proposal for advancing more inclusive global development.

Sanchez hailed the development of bilateral ties and said that Spain hopes to use the 50th anniversary as an opportunity to promote greater development of the countries' comprehensive strategic partnership.

Spain hopes to maintain high-level exchanges with China and promote exchanges and cooperation in the fields of trade, investment, culture and dealing with climate change, and will better facilitate Chinese investment, he said.

He also expressed Spain's willingness to actively promote dialogue and cooperation in various fields between Europe and China.

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CHINA

Skills: Talent and hard work bring rewards

From page 1

Born in 2000 in Wenzhou, Zhejiang, Ma started to learn construction and decoration at Zhejiang Construction Technician College in Hangzhou, the provincial capital, when he was 16.

"My father is a construction worker, and we both think it is a good idea to master a skill. That's why I chose this major," Ma said.

"In 2017, I applied to be a member of the college's special training team for WorldSkills competitions. More than 200 students applied, but only some 30 passed and stayed for training after two rounds of fierce competition."

Ma's outstanding skills and hard work showed he had the talent to take part in the competition.

Xu Zhen, the college's head coach for plastering and drywall system training, said: "Ma is the kind of student that works wholeheartedly to achieve a goal once it is set. He is not only diligent, but can also think and work flexibly and creatively during training, which is essential."

At the 45th WorldSkills Competition in 2019 in Kazan, Russia, Ma witnessed Gao Yuzhou take second place for China.

"I went to Kazan hoping to learn more about the competition," said Ma, who that year ranked third nationally, with Gao in first position.

Ma was thrilled when the results were announced, and said they made him more eager to take part in the competition.

After returning from Kazan, he spent an average of seven hours a day in the college training room, quickly wearing out a pair of protective shoes with 5-centimeter soles. Such shoes typically last for several years.

This year, the competition was due to be held in Shanghai in October, but in May, WorldSkills International and the Shanghai 2022 Executive Bureau said it would be canceled due to the COVID-19 epidemic.

"I felt quite frustrated when I heard this news, as competing in and winning a championship motivated me during the past five years' training," Ma said.

Participants in the competition must be 22 or younger, and can only take part in it once.

In late July, Ma was told to start training again, as the competition had been switched to France.

Staged over four days in Bordeaux, it comprised five sections, in which competitors had to calculate the materials to use on drawings provided, and also draw up a basic structure for their project.

They also had to install cotton soundproofing in the walls and plaster boards, and complete freestyle creative decoration work.

Unexpected situations arose. For example, the size of the plasterboards provided by the organizer was different from those commonly seen in China.

"This was a challenge, which initially made me nervous, but my coach and I came up with solutions after discussions," Ma said.

Due to the humidity in Bordeaux, the birds Ma made as decorations fell from a wall and shattered. He glued them back together and finished the creative molding section just in time.

He painted the wall blue, drew an Eiffel Tower in red, and a large feather and several birds in white — the three colors of the French national flag. The final project was about 2.3 meters square and 2.1 m high.

Footage of Ma doing his plastering has attracted numerous views and discussions on social media platforms, with many people inspired by his world championship triumph.

Xu Zhen, Ma's coach, who has taught at Zhejiang Construction Technician College since 2011, said he has seen the increasing popularity of skilled workers in recent years, as social acceptance of technical school graduates has risen.

Qian Zhenghai, the college's principal, told CCTV: "Vocational education is a good life path to choose, as demand for technical talent is increasing with modernization. Our goal is to improve and nurture talent to meet market demand, and improve the quality of our training and courses."

Ma will remain at the college as a teacher, passing on his knowledge and skills to those interested in construction.

From top: Ma Hongda, Dong Qing and Zhou Chujie, three of the Chinese winners at the WorldSkills Competition 2022 Special Edition.
PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

15
number of gold medals won by the Chinese team as of Monday at the WorldSkills Competition 2022 Special Edition

Fashion triumph

During childhood, Dong Qing sat beside her mother's sewing machine in Guangdong province, watching her make clothes. Now, Dong, 23, works with a sewing machine and fabrics herself, and has become a world champion.

Born in Hengyang, Hunan province, Dong graduated from Hunan Arts and Crafts Vocational College in Yiyang, Hunan. She has just won the fashion technology championship at the WorldSkills Competition 2022 Special Edition in Helsinki, Finland.

"Seeing my mother working with her sewing machine influenced my career choice," Dong said.

In 2017, Dong started learning fashion design and clothes making at the Yiyang college.

"That year, I applied to join the training team for the 45th WorldSkills competition in 2019. As a freshman, I was selected for the provincial team with several of my seniors," she said.

Training, from design to fabric cutting, from plate making to clothes making, left a deep impression on Dong.

"I failed to join the national team that year, but for the next time, I learned from the experience, the level of dedication, concentration, and the creation needed to win," she said.

Three years later, Dong seized her chance.

To prepare for this year's competition, she joined a special training course in Beijing in August.

"The course was quite tough, and I was on my feet for at least eight hours a day, but I thoroughly enjoyed it," Dong said.

The four-day competition comprised four sections, and the work had to be completed within 18 hours.

Competitors were required to draw patterns and lay out garments in the first three hours, cut fabrics in 90 minutes, and use the rest of the time making clothing themed on an equestrian outfit.

Dong made a black suit with an indigo-blue vest.

In addition to practicing her clothes-making skills, she closely follows the latest trends through magazines and fashion shows.

In her daily life, she opts for sportswear and loose-fitting dresses to match her skinny physique.

As Dong competed in Helsinki, her family members stayed up late for news of the competition.

"When I make clothes for them, they don't worry much about the cut or the design, because we care for and love each other via the clothing," Dong said.

The days and nights Dong spent with her teachers, and the instruction they gave her, made her decide to become a teacher, and she will soon start work at her college.

"I want to share my experience in the WorldSkills competition with my future students and train more of them in the craft of fashion," she said.

It was the third time contestants from the Chinese mainland had won a Worldskills fashion technology gold, with Wen Caiyun triumphing in Kazan in 2019, and Hu Ping in Abu Dhabi in 2017.

Family advice

When Zhou Chujie first attended a vocational and technical school in Shunde district, Foshan, Guangdong, in 2015, he knew little about computer numerical control milling.

This machining process uses computerized controls and rotating multipoint cutting tools to progressively remove material from a workpiece to produce a custom-designed part or product.

"My family thought it was important for me to have skills in my future career, so I decided to major in CNC Milling," Zhou said.

During his studies at Liang Qiuju Vocational and Technical School in Shunde, a traditional major manufacturing base in South China, Zhou began a hectic daily training schedule, joining the CNC Milling competition team in the 2016 summer vacation.

After graduating from the school, he continued his studies at Guangdong Machinery Technician College in 2018. The college is widely regarded as the "cradle of golds" in the WorldSkills Competition.

Hard training paid off, and Zhou, 23, and Wu Hongyu, also from the Guangdong college, won gold medals in the CNC Turning and CNC Milling competitions at the WorldSkills Competition 2022 Special Edition in Leonberg, Germany, helping China win four consecutive championships at the event.

The CNC Turning and CNC Milling competitions ended in Leonberg on Oct 16, attracting contestants from more than 20 countries and regions.

From 2015 to 2019, the Chinese team won gold medals in the CNC Milling event during the WorldSkills Competition, which is held every two years and aims to showcase world-class professional skills.

Zhou said, "The gold medals will enable more people to understand the CNC industry, in particular attracting more young people to learn the technology and improve their level of skill."

He now plans to devote himself to vocational and technical education. "My story might encourage other young people to develop their skills," Zhou said.

According to a guideline on producing highly skilled workers, released early last month by the State Council, China's Cabinet, the nation will establish a more sound and improved system to cultivate highly skilled workers, with their numbers, social status, quality of work and incomes rising by the end of 2025.

Skilled workers are projected to comprise at least 30 percent of the nation's total working population by that year, according to the guideline.

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Far-reaching policy support helps more young people join nation's talent pool

By CHENG SI
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Policies in the past 10 years to develop vocational education and improve skilled workers' incomes and status have resulted in more young people entering China's talent pool for manufacturing and innovation.

Ye Junfeng, dean of Guangdong Machinery Technician College, said: "There is great demand in China for skilled workers as the nation's manufacturing industry advances. Traditionally, people may think the job market demands a large number of scientists, but it is also thirsty for skilled workers."

He said the public has shown a more friendly and inclusive attitude toward vocational education and skilled workers in recent years thanks to government efforts to improve such workers' social status and pay, and also through the introduction of world-class skills competitions.

"China joined the WorldSkills Competition for the first time in 2011 (entering the 41st such event in London) and won its first gold medal in Brazil in 2015. This year, the Chinese team has won 15 golds so far," Ye said.

"The skills competition brings confidence to Chinese people and showcases the impressive skills of the nation's workers on the world stage. We've changed the stereotypical view that China only produces low-quality products due to a lack of skilled workers.

"Receiving vocational education is not a bad plan for students with poor academic performances, but a personal choice by these young people who have skills and enjoy technical research."

China has made continuous efforts to improve the public recognition and social status of vocational education, and also the promotion prospects and payment of skilled workers, with the aims of enhancing innovation capability and relieving a structural employment imbalance.

A recent guideline released by the State Council, China's Cabinet, said the nation aims to build a more sound and reasonable mechanism to cultivate skilled workers by the end of 2025, with a more scientific evaluation system, attractive incentives, stable payments, and a friendly social environment.

According to the guideline, skilled workers are projected to make up 30 percent or more of the nation's total working population by 2025, and the highly skilled will comprise roughly one-third of all skilled workers.

The numbers, quality and structure of skilled workers will be adapted to meet the nation's modernization requirements by 2035, the guideline states.

In July last year, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security released an action plan, clarifying that the nation will produce more than 40 million new skilled workers from last year to 2025. Skilled workers are projected to comprise 30 percent of the total labor force.

According to the plan, highly skilled workers in eastern provinces such as Zhejiang and Jiangsu will make up 35 percent of the provinces' total skilled population. The population of highly skilled workers in central and western areas — for example, Shaanxi province — should rise by two or three percentage points from last year to 2025.

Chen Lixiang, vice-chairman of the Chinese Society for Technical and Vocational Education, said raising the incomes and social status of skilled workers is a progressive step in accordance with China's economic development.

Ye, the dean, said the nation can better connect the vocational education systems now managed by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, in order for vocational students to take a uniform degree that can help them better advance their careers after graduation.

CHINA

Hospitals being built to cope with infections

Guangzhou reacts to continuing spike in virus cases with more medical resources

By **QIU QUANLIN** in Guangzhou and **DU JUAN** in Beijing

More makeshift hospitals are being built in Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong province, to boost its treatment capacity for COVID-19 infections, according to a local health official.

Medical resources at all levels will be optimized and put into operation as the number of new infections increases significantly across the city, said Zhang Yi, deputy director of the Guangzhou Health Commission.

At a news conference on Tuesday afternoon, Zhang said the treatment capacity in makeshift hospitals would be expanded as soon as possible, with a mechanism for transferring infected people also being optimized.

As of Monday, the city has opened six makeshift hospitals, providing more than 20,000 treatment beds mainly for asymptomatic carriers, according to Zhang.

A package of daily necessities including toiletries, earplugs and eye masks is provided for each person being treated in makeshift hospitals, according to Zhang.

Guangzhou reported its highest number of infections for a single day on Monday in the past three years, with 147 locally transmitted confirmed COVID-19 cases and 4,977 asymptomatic carriers, according to the local health authority.

There have been no reports of infected people in serious or critical condition since the latest wave of COVID-19 in the city began on Oct 22, according to Zhang.

Up to 94.8 percent of new infections on Monday had been found in the city's Haizhu district, mainly concentrated in the Kanglu area of Fengyang subdistrict.

Of the new infections on Monday, 30 were detected during nucleic acid testing in communities or in clinics.

"More efforts will be concentrated to tackle the epidemic situation in Haizhu, with rapid screening and transferring of newly infected people," said Zhang, adding medical staff will be sent to take samples door-to-door in high-risk areas to detect infections as early as possible.

According to Fu Xiaochu, deputy district head of Haizhu, more than 2,400 medical workers were organized to take door-to-door nucleic acid samples in the district's high-risk areas on Tuesday.

Beijing's Chaoyang district, the hardest-hit area in the capital, has increased the number of its regular testing sites and extended operating hours to address the increasing requirement for nucleic acid tests.

Chaoyang has 1,854 testing sites and 2,913 channels for the public to take the tests for free. Both numbers are 30 more than the previous day, said Yang Beibei, deputy head of the district government, at a news conference on Tuesday.

"Testing sites in residential communities will open as early as 6:30 in the morning, in order to provide services for people who go to work early," she said.

Chaoyang reported 69 new local infections between midnight and 3 pm Tuesday, out of the city's 170 new local cases, among whom 20 were detected at the community level, according to the local health commission.

Li Hongbing, deputy head of the city's civil affairs bureau, said on Tuesday, that all nursing homes in the city had implemented the highest level of epidemic control and prevention for emergencies by Nov 7, in an attempt to protect the safety and health of the elderly.

Beijing has 571 nursing homes that house 46,300 seniors, according to the bureau.

"The average age of those seniors is above 80, which means this group of people face a bigger threat during epidemic outbreaks," Li said.

In Chongqing, 157 new local confirmed COVID-19 cases and 2,794 new asymptomatic carriers were recorded on Monday, according to the local health commission.

Except for areas listed as having a high risk of infection in central urban districts, other central urban areas will carry out nucleic acid testing once every two days starting on Tuesday.

According to Chongqing Daily, a makeshift hospital with more than 12,000 beds is under construction at the city's Yuelai International Exhibition Center, and will be put into use later.

The Chinese mainland on Monday reported 1,621 locally transmitted confirmed COVID-19 cases and 16,151 local asymptomatic carriers, the National Health Commission said Tuesday.

Deng Rui and Tan Yingzi in Chongqing and Duan Ling in Beijing contributed to this story.

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Community workers inquire about the special needs of people quarantined at home in Chongqing on Tuesday. CUI LI / FOR CHINA DAILY

Police kill suspected bank robber; hostage saved

By **ZHAO RUIXUE** in Jinan
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A suspected bank robber was shot dead while holding a person hostage and confronting police in a bank in Taishan district of Tai'an, Shandong province, on Tuesday afternoon, the Taishan branch of Tai'an Police said in a notice.

Local police officers arrived at the scene soon after they received a report at noon that an armed person had robbed a bank and taken a hostage. Details on the weapons were not included in the notice.

The suspect was extremely emotional and shouted that he wanted to die with the hostage, the branch police said.

The police shot and killed the suspect at 1:12 pm after several warnings failed. The hostage was rescued.

Further investigation is underway, the police said.

Journey's end

Above: People welcome a yacht in Shanghai returning from a journey around the Arctic Ocean on Tuesday. The yacht set off from the city on June 30 last year and sailed 28,000 nautical miles nonstop.
Left: Zhai Mo, captain of the yacht, meets the media on dry land.
PHOTOS BY CHEN MENGZE / FOR CHINA DAILY

Jurisdiction in foreign-related legal cases clarified

By **CAO YIN**
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China is adjusting jurisdiction over foreign-related civil and commercial cases to offer litigants greater convenience and accommodate new needs in the decades-long process of reform and opening-up, the country's top court said.

The Supreme People's Court issued a guideline on Tuesday, stating that district-level courts are responsible for handling civil and commercial disputes involving foreign litigants, while intermediate-level courts will hear foreign-related cases involving large amounts of money, complicated circumstances, multiple litigants or social repercussions.

The guideline will come into effect on Jan 1.

It stipulated that the definition of "large" depends on location.

For example, intermediate courts in Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai and Chongqing as well as the provinces of Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Fujian, Shandong and Guangdong will deal with cases involving 40 million yuan ($5.7 million) or more, while courts at the same level in other areas will handle disputes involving 20 million yuan or more.

Cases involving 5 billion yuan or more, or with significant social repercussions, will be heard at high-level courts, it said.

Maritime and intellectual property cases involving foreign litigants will not be subject to the guideline, nor will public-interest lawsuits related to the environment or ecological damage compensation.

Currently, foreign-related disputes are generally heard at a few designated intermediate-level courts with stronger judicial capability, but as "the number of judges able to deal with these cases in courts at district and intermediate levels is rising, it's okay to expand jurisdiction to better serve opening-up", the top court's No 4 Civil Division explained in a statement on Tuesday.

It also said that the change was made in response to the rapid growth of foreign-related civil and commercial cases in the last few years due to the promotion of the Belt and Road Initiative and the building of the Hainan Free Trade Zone.

Data from the SPC last month showed that courts concluded 295,000 foreign-related civil, commercial and maritime cases between January 2013 and June, issuing 31 judicial interpretations and nine normative documents.

To more efficiently handle BRI-related disputes and advance opening-up, the SPC opened its first international commercial court in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, and a second in Xi'an, Shaanxi province, in June 2018.

Shanghai Master Forum shines light on science

By **WANG YING** in Shanghai
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The first Shanghai Master Forum on Science was launched on Tuesday, and professor Michael Levitt, laureate of the 2013 Nobel Prize in chemistry, was invited as the keynote speaker of the platform that will support Shanghai in becoming an international technological innovation center, officials said.

"We are targeting building a great platform for the world's top scientists to be able to explain scientific thoughts, as well as boost Shanghai in becoming a global technological innovation center," said Dong Yunhu, chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Shanghai Committee at the opening ceremony of the forum.

Shanghai is fast developing as a modern and international socialist metropolis with global influence, so the city is more than ever in need of education, science, the fundamental and strategic support of talent, as well as the guidance of scientific thoughts, said Dong.

He added that the city will continue to engage in technological innovation and fully support scientific activities.

Jiao Yang, Party secretary of Fudan University, said: "Closely interacting with the city's existing scientific events including the World Laureates Forum, the World Artificial Intelligence Conference and the Pujiang Innovation Forum, the Shanghai Master Forum on Science will try its best to transform the wisdom and experience of top scientists into innovative practice, and help nurture more scientific discoveries, technological inventions, industrial directions, as well as new development ideas."

The inaugural forum kicked off immediately after the launch ceremony at Fudan University's Xianghui Hall.

Michael Levitt speaks during the inaugural Shanghai Master Forum on Science in Shanghai on Tuesday.
GAO ERQIANG / CHINA DAILY

During his 60-minute speech entitled AI for Science: Frontiers in Computational Biology, Levitt described how computational biology has grown from being a fringe discipline in modern life sciences to a leading discipline, and how it reveals profound methodological implications and the law of scientific development.

"I think bringing together scientists who are different … to talk about something like AI is a very good idea. And I hope this series will continue … Talking about science is something that scientists do all the time … scientists meeting is very important," said Levitt.

Levitt, who is also a member of the American National Academy of Sciences and a tenured professor of Structural Biology at Stanford University, is a pioneer in developing a molecular dynamics simulation method for protein and DNA.

In 2018, Levitt joined Fudan University, where he founded the Multiscale Research Institute of Complex Systems.

Two co-speakers, professor Ma Jianpeng and professor Qi Yuan, both from Fudan University, were also invited to make presentations.

World's highest grapes cultivate better life in Tibet

By **DAQIONG** and **PALDEN NYIMA** in Lhasa

The fragrance of pressed grapes perfumes the mountain air in the small village of Tharma in Sangri county of the Tibetan autonomous region this time of year.

Grape cultivation in the county that sits at an average altitude of 3,600 meters above sea level has increased the wealth of the residents and created a whole new local industry that is prospering.

Sangri, which includes the villages of Tharma, Lok, Horbothang and Drokyi, was even certified by the Guinness Book of World Records in 2011 as the highest location on the planet where grapes are grown.

Organic grape growing was introduced to the county, which is blessed by a mild climate and moderate sunshine, via an Aid-Tibet project funded by Hunan province, and since 2011, the cultivation area has increased from less than 1 hectare to nearly 666 hectares.

The vineyards in Sangri county were recognized in 2021 for their production of green, pollution-free products.

"The harvest season for grapes and the best time for making wine are right now. We've finished with picking the grapes and we've been busy making wine lately," Luo Minglu, a manager at Sangri County Pakdrub Rongshun Zhuangyuan Co — which operates the business — was quoted as saying by China News Service.

The company has played a key role in bringing suppliers and local households together to produce wine and other products that have increased the standard of living in the area.

Between 2016 and 2022, the company's cumulative grape yield reached 590 metric tons. More than 500 villagers were employed last year, with more than 2.9 million yuan ($406,000) spent on salaries.

The grape yield and the wine production of the company are expected to reach 350 tons and 150 tons by 2022, respectively.

Yangjen Lhamo, an employee at Sangri County Pakdrub Rongshun Zhuangyuan, said she and her sister have worked at the company for years, and not only do they enjoy their toils and spoils but the vineyards are located very close to home.

"I earn nearly 6,000 yuan a month, and I am very pleased with my job," she said. "Thanks to the good policies from the government, it is easy to have a better life if we work hard."

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CHINA

Frog-rice project helps village jump ahead

A combined cultivation model is creating symbiotic success in the countryside. **Ma Zhenhuan** reports from Hangzhou.

A highly efficient and sustainable model of the combined cultivation of rice and black-spotted frogs has achieved financial and environmental success in recent years in Chengshan, a village in Changxing county, Huzhou, in the eastern province of Zhejiang.

"This symbiotic model had been functioning for a long time before it bore fruit," said Wu Chuanyi, a frog expert who was the first person in the province to receive a license to breed them.

"In 2010, no one had any professional, practical experience in the artificial breeding of black-spotted frogs in China. But out of love and interest, I conducted a small-scale trial," Wu said, adding that he created a special feed for the frogs consisting of fly maggots, earthworms and yellow mealworms.

Wu said that his original intention was to prevent the frogs from becoming extinct.

"As the market demand for black-spotted frogs was large, I considered breeding them artificially so the wild frog population could be protected and market demand could be met at the same time," he said.

Wu said his model also contributes to the development of the ecological environment, a concept promoted by President Xi Jinping that emphasizes the sustainable coexistence of humanity and the environment.

"Black-spotted frogs are very different from other kinds of frogs," he said. "They are ferocious, with amazing ability to jump. They can catch insects within 1 meter of the rice fields, which fully meets their growth and reproductive needs."

Wu is also general manager of Zhejiang Changxing Daohuaxiang Agricultural Technology. Located in Chengshan, the company mainly focuses on agricultural scientific research and sales of edible agricultural products.

The company was established in 2013 and began breeding the frogs on 5.3 hectares of land the following year, Wu said, explaining the development of the business.

In 2015, the breeding area was expanded to 13.3 hectares, and the following year, the company began to develop its combined cultivation model.

By 2020, the model had caught on with some local farmers, who used it to raise their incomes, thus promoting China's goals of rural vitalization and common prosperity, Wu said.

The project has attracted a great deal of attention from both local villagers and the government.

"Last year, the collective economic cooperatives of Chengshan, Heping town, participated in the project. With the help of my company's technology, 27.8 hectares of local peach forests were used to plant rice and raise frogs, solving the unemployment problem of low-income seniors in the village," Wu said. He added that the value of the company's output reached 9.75 million yuan ($1.38 million) last year, making a net profit of 4.43 million yuan.

Li Qicai, a member of the Communist Party of China's branch in Chengshan, said the village "warmly welcomed this project".

"More than 27 hectares of fertile land used for the combined cultivation of rice and black-spotted frogs have been rented out by villagers, who each earn an average annual rent of about 800 yuan per mu ($1,706 per hectare)," Li said.

"The project has helped more than 30 elderly villagers find work in their hometown, and has helped more than a dozen poor families who were each given free shares to earn dividends."

As of this year, more than 200 hectares of land have been used for the combined cultivation project in other places in Huzhou and in other cities such as Hangzhou and Jiaxing, which has raised incomes and provided jobs for more than 400 rural households.

Ru Jianliang, vice-chairman of the association for science and technology in Changxing, said the combined cultivation of rice and black-spotted frogs is symbiotic: the fields serve as feeding grounds for the frogs, who eat pests. In turn, the frogs' feces helps fertilize the fields so the rice can grow.

"The model aims to curb the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. It reduces the cost of pest control by 110 yuan per mu ($235 per hectare) and the cost of chemical fertilizer by 80 yuan per mu ($171 per hectare)," Ru said.

Ru added that the yield of both the frogs and the rice can amount to more than 7,500 kilograms per hectare, and that the revenue per hectare can reach about 159,000 yuan "which is much higher than that of conventional rice planting".

Wu said: "To meet the challenges of the fast-growing market, science and technology, the company has made more of an investment in the research and development of digital production and management systems, as well as in the deep processing of agricultural products. We are now fully prepared for the further development of modern ecological agriculture."

Fang Xiaoying contributed to this story.

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Fields dedicated to the sustainable, combined cultivation model for rice and black-spotted frogs in Changxing county, Huzhou, Zhejiang province, are watered by a mechanized sprinkler irrigation system. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Left: A bird's-eye view of the combined cultivation area for rice and black-spotted frogs in Changxing. **Right:** Black-spotted frogs are ferocious and are expert jumpers. They can catch insects within 1 meter of the fields that have been sowed with rice under the novel cultivation model.

China Taiping boosts high-quality development in Indonesia market

By HAO NAN
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As early as 1936, China Taiping set up branches in Indonesia to provide insurance services to locals and overseas Chinese. China Taiping has developed a deep understanding of the industry in Indonesia and accumulated rich experience in operating its property insurance business there. In 1996, PT China Taiping Insurance Indonesia, Taiping Indonesia for short, was established and headquartered in Jakarta.

China Taiping has been deeply involved in the Indonesian insurance market for more than 80 years, with a strong focus on professional management and business legacy. It has conducted in-depth research and studies on risk management in Indonesian society, providing a valuable reference for Chinese companies to understand and invest in the local insurance market. Today, Taiping Indonesia has developed into a well-known local insurance organization and enjoys a strong reputation in Indonesia.

Under the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, a growing number of Chinese companies have invested in Indonesia, with projects mainly in coal-fired power generation, expressways, high-speed railways, nickel-iron plants and cement plants. As the branch of China Taiping in Indonesia, Taiping Indonesia has actively fulfilled its role as a Chinese central State-owned financial enterprise, fully utilizing its risk protection and capital financing functions and leveraging its cross-border operational strengths to provide risk-protection services for nearly 90 percent of these projects, with a scale of more than 700 billion yuan (99.43 billion).

The Jakarta-Bandung high-speed railway, for example, is the first of its kind in Indonesia and Southeast Asia. The railway links the Indonesian capital Jakarta and the country's fourth-largest city Bandung with a total length of about 142 kilometers. It is expected to be fully operational in June 2023. When completed, the project will shorten the travel time from more than three hours to just 40 minutes, at a design speed of up to 350 km per hour.

Two Taiping medical stations in Indonesia's South Sumatra province and Banten province of West Java are put into operation. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Other projects include the Shenhua Guohua Indonesia Java 7 coal-fired power plant, which is a thermal power project with the largest single unit installed capacity invested in and built abroad by a Chinese enterprise; and the Morowali Industrial Park in Central Sulawesi, which focuses on smelting ferronickel and other metals. It will be the largest steel plant in Indonesia upon its completion.

In addition to providing risk coverage, Taiping Indonesia also offers on-site insurance training, risk assessment, first-aid training and other services to these projects, helping to guarantee both property and personnel safety.

In 2020, two Taiping medical stations located in South Sumatra province and Banten province of West Java were put into operation.

They are managed by medical professionals proficient in Chinese, English and Indonesian. Equipped with advanced medical equipment, the stations provide 24-hour medical services mainly for employees of two coal-fired power generation projects and the surrounding residents.

This is an important attempt for China Taiping to implement the "insurance plus medical care" services overseas.

"China Taiping emphasizes the concept of pre-risk management and promotes health care while giving full play to its function of insurance guarantee," said Guo Dapeng, a national energy project service team leader of TPI, a property insurance subsidiary of China Taiping. "We plan to set up more medical stations to serve key Belt and Road projects in Cambodia, Bangladesh, Vietnam and other countries," he added.

Since 2021, Taiping Indonesia has actively participated in public welfare undertakings to fulfill its corporate social responsibility. As an example, it has reached cooperation with RICCI Senior High School and funds 10 students annually to help them complete the three-year education. The company also donated health and safety materials to the school during the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

These moves helped Chinese enterprises create a good image in Indonesia, and have also made great contributions to promoting economic and cultural exchanges between the two countries, experts said.

In August 2022, Taiping Indonesia received the "Outstanding Insurance 2021" award from Infobank, a leading local media, and the "Best Insurance 2022" award from Majalah Investor, a national magazine in Indonesia.

Xue Baohua, General Manager of Taiping Indonesia, said that in the new era, Taiping Indonesia will uphold the "central expectations," while being "customer-oriented, innovation-oriented and value oriented." It will also make greater contributions to promote Sino-Indonesian economic and trade cooperation and Indonesia's economic and social development, Xue said.

This section is sponsored by China Taiping.

Woman keeps 50-year ties with deer

LHASA — Though it has been seven years since Changchub Lhamo retired, the former ranger often returns to the vast grassland to visit her "ungulate friends."

The 67-year-old member of the Tibetan ethnic group used to work at the Riwoche National Nature Reserve in Riwoche county in the city of Chamdo, Southwest China's Tibet autonomous region. Covering 1,206 square kilometers, the reserve was set up to protect red deer, a species under second-class national protection.

The bond between Changchub Lhamo and the red deer dates back over 50 years, after she saved three fawns in the wild when she was 15 years old.

"I found them while farming in the field. I waited all day without seeing their parents, so I decided to take them home to protect them from predators or starving to death," she recalled.

Even though her family was not well-off at the time, she spared some barley for the fawns and fed them yak milk. At night, she cuddled them while they slept to keep them warm.

The three fawns grew healthily under her meticulous care, and one of them was even named for her. Two years later, Changchub Lhamo released them into the wild. "I was reluctant to part with them, but I knew that nature was their home," she said.

During the first winter after their release, Changchub Lhamo was surprised to find the three red deer returning, followed by several others.

Later, the local government allocated pasture for the deer to graze during winter and hired Changchub Lhamo as a ranger. The Riwoche Red Deer Nature Reserve was established in 1993, and upgraded to national facility status in 2005.

Duan Shichang, from the county's forestry and grassland administration, said the local government spends more than 200,000 yuan ($28,000) on fodder every year to help red deer survive the winter, while monitoring stations, patrol trails and veterinary stations have also been built. Thanks to the protective measures, the red deer population in the reserve has risen from more than 1,000 in the 1990s to about 3,000.

Changchub Lhamo's two sons are now among the nine rangers who work at the reserve. The rangers observe the deer, carry out regular patrols and rescue injured animals.

"I will continue to follow in mom's footsteps and make a contribution to wildlife protection," said Changchub Lhamo's son, Rinchen Tsephel, who has been working at the reserve for six years.

XINHUA

Firefighters' donations help support children's education at remote school

SHIJIAZHUANG — Ahead of National Fire Prevention Day on Nov 9, firefighters in Shexian county in North China's Hebei province received more than 1,000 paper cranes.

Notes written on the cranes revealed the well-wishers to be dozens of children from a school in a mountainous area. They made the gifts to express their gratitude to the firefighters, who have volunteered to support the education of children at the school for nearly three decades.

"You are my role model, and I hope I can be a hero like you to save people in danger when I grow up," read one note on a pink paper crane.

The relationship began in 1994, when firefighters in the county heard that a student who had an excellent academic performance faced difficulties continuing his studies because his family was barely able to make ends meet.

Although they lived on meager incomes in the 1990s, some firefighters donated half their wages to support the boy.

Moreover, as they helped students at Guanghua High School — which also formerly encompassed primary and middle schools — with their physical training before the start of each semester, they noticed that many came from impoverished households.

The firefighters decided to provide financial assistance to students at the school every year, donating in the name of their fire station.

The tradition has been carried on for 28 years, despite new firefighters being recruited and older firefighters retiring. The station's support for the children has never ceased. Many students have benefited from this support, with over 130 admitted to colleges, 13 joining the army, 20 becoming teachers after graduation, and some becoming firefighters.

Inspired by the firefighters, the students also learned to give back to society. "Two decades ago, I almost dropped out as my family could barely support my education," said Li Tianbao, now a teacher at his old school. "It was the firefighters who helped me out."

Li often tells his students that "no man is an island, and we should pass on kindness and love with generosity". Over 500 students from impoverished families have been sponsored by the firefighters in Shexian, with donations totaling over 100,000 yuan ($14,000) and nearly 4,000 books provided.

The school has grown from three classrooms with three teachers to a well-known local school covering 112,000 square meters. "Even after all these years, I can clearly remember the firefighters' faces and names because they are like our family," said Zhao Jiao'e, the principal of the school since 1994.

XINHUA

CHINA

Global Generation Z Forum 2022

Representatives of the organizers and the seven speakers take a group photo at the Global Generation Z Forum 2022 at Tsinghua University in Beijing on Monday.
PHOTOS BY DONG MING / FOR CHINA DAILY

Youth urged to share China's stories

Foreign speakers at Generation Z forum discuss their thoughts, experiences in developing nation

By CHEN XUE
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Young people should think about China, experience China and present China's stories, Qu Yingpu, publisher and editor-in-chief of China Daily, said during opening remarks at the Global Generation Z Forum 2022, held on Monday at Tsinghua University.

Co-sponsored by China Daily and Tsinghua, the event echoed the government's report to the 20th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party, which was held in Beijing from Oct 16 to 22, which specifically included an assessment of today's youth.

"Young people of today are living in a remarkable time," it said. "They have an incomparably broad stage on which to display their full talents, and they have incomparably bright prospects."

At the forum, nine young guest speakers from China, Egypt, France, Georgia, India, Russia, South Africa and the United States shared their ideas on the report, their thoughts on China and the path ahead, and the responsibilities that their generation is shouldering.

Nik Gu, a Russian who is a student envoy for global communication at Tsinghua University, has been constantly thinking about China. He is particularly impressed by the thousand-year-old Chinese concept *he er bu tong* ("finding harmony in diversity") which he believes is deeply embedded in China's diplomatic policies, including the principles of peaceful coexistence and the national concept of "building a community with a shared future for mankind".

"It demonstrates China's political wisdom in building a new type of international relations, and fully demonstrates the global pattern of mutual cooperation, fair competition and peaceful development in state-to-state relations," Gu said in his speech.

Shamim Zakaria, an Indian journalist and commentator, shared his thoughts about experiencing China.

Zakaria has traveled extensively across the country, including to rural areas, which has allowed him to see with his own eyes the national accomplishments in poverty alleviation and social advancement, and gain a better understanding of the government's people-centered development philosophy.

"I was astounded by the efforts to promote balanced, coordinated and inclusive development. The extraordinary transformations that have occurred in people's lives are evident," he said in his speech.

Liu Dibo, a Chinese student at Tsinghua's School of Environment, shared his experience of presenting China's stories.

Liu worked as a volunteer at the 2022 Winter Olympics and Winter Paralympics in Beijing. Serving as an assistant to Francesco Ricci Bitti, president of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations, he informed Ricci Bitti how much China had changed since 2008, when the Summer Olympics were held in the capital, and taught him as much as he could about Chinese culture.

By bringing young people from different countries together to tell their stories about China, the forum was a demonstration of what Qiu Yong, secretary of the CPC Tsinghua University Committee and chairman of Tsinghua University Council, said during opening remarks: "The youth represent hope and are the architects of the future. A better shared future depends on the friendships of young people continuing from generation to generation."

And these friendships can only be developed through communication and interaction.

"Any knowledge of each other can only be achieved through personal experience, through interaction among people," Dong Xia, head of the International Liaison Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League, said in an interview after the forum.

"Young people around the world have to learn about each other, know about each other through their actions, through their hearts, through their shared experiences," Dong said.

Indian reporter lectures on country's achievements

By YUAN DAN
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Shamim Zakaria

Shamim Zakaria, an Indian reporter who has been working in China for five years, shared stories of his China adventure, during which he has gone from knowing nothing about the country to sincerely appreciating its people, culture and political wisdom.

When he first landed at Changsha airport in Hunan province on a drizzly afternoon in March 2017, Zakaria was understandably anxious about his new surroundings. It marked the beginning of his journey in a country he had been told little about in India, and read even less about in the media. "I believe that most expats would agree with me when I say that a bulk of what is reported about China isn't always objective," he said.

His courage didn't fail him. The tremendous warmth, generosity and hospitality of the people he met put him at ease.

"As someone who has extensively traveled, I'm qualified enough to vouch that the Chinese are among the nicest and kindest in the world."

Working as a reporter has allowed Zakaria to observe China from a perspective free of bias and misinformation. He has traveled across the country and talked to people from different lines of work, witnessing the development and progress of daily life. As his affection for Chinese culture grew, he developed an understanding of the wisdom of China's governance.

"I can see clearly that the development of people is at the core of governance. Chinese leaders attach great importance to the interests, happiness and well-being of the people, and remarkable results have been delivered," he said.

He used poverty alleviation as an example. Since 2012, nearly 100 million rural dwellers have been lifted out of poverty, an achievement Zakaria described as "perhaps the greatest victory over poverty ever in the history of humankind".

Coming from a country that is also densely populated and suffering from poverty, he sees in the remarkable efficiency China has shown during the process inspiration for other developing countries such as his own. "I think India could draw lessons from the success of poverty alleviation in China," he said.

While these achievements rarely make the cover of international newspapers, he believes there is also a visible tendency in Western media to portray China negatively and to disregard its achievements. "When it comes to international geopolitics, the West, which often tends to hold high the banner of 'inclusiveness', has failed to live up to its own ideals," he said.

Zakaria calls for positive engagement, for the West to see the facts and foster mutual respect and understanding.

In contrast, when it comes to "inclusiveness" in international relations, he praised China for its contribution to global unity and respect for diversity. He mentioned the work report presented at the recently-concluded 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, in which China reiterated its commitment to its foreign policy goals of protecting world peace and advancing joint development.

The young man once standing bewildered in rainy Changsha has grown into a firm supporter of Chinese political wisdom. Now he is more determined than ever to deliver the real China story to the world, to more youth who are just like he was five years ago.

American lauds Chinese education system

By CHEN XUE
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Jennifer Holstein

How is China's education system different from other parts of the world? Jennifer Holstein, a journalist from the United States who has studied and taught in China, may have the answer.

When she was 16, Holstein went on a gap year experience to a high school in Beijing. She would wake up each morning at 6:30 to a song playing on the school's loudspeaker. Classes would start at 7:15 and end at 5:30, and then dinner was followed by another round of classes — known as "night study" — which didn't end until late at night.

"It was no doubt the hardest year of my life as a student, but it was also the most rewarding. I left my study program with so much knowledge and so much respect for the learning process," Holstein said in her speech.

China has attached great importance to education since ancient times. This is even more the case today as it tries to bridge the gap between rich and poor and urban and rural communities through educational equality.

Holstein gave examples of how China's literacy rates have improved dramatically — from 65 percent in 1982 to over 96 percent in 2018.

She also shared the notable story of Zhang Guimei, a teacher who has fought for the right of girls in rural Yunnan province to get an education.

In terms of access to education, China is a world leader in affordable quality public education. Holstein said that in the US, college students have an average of $28,000 in debt, while there is practically no student debt in China due to much more affordable higher education, allowing more people from disadvantaged backgrounds to experience economic mobility.

"Education can be the defining and distinguishing factor of change in the lives of children and young adults looking for a path to a better life. And for a society or a country, education has the power to lift people out of poverty, to help train more doctors to treat the sick and develop cures to illnesses," Holstein said. "An educated population is an empowered population."

South Africans sing praises of TCM

By WU DI
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Sinovuyo Mkula

Shannah Rose Erasmus

It's difficult to imagine what college life will be like when one chooses an unfamiliar major in an ancient technique that is thousands of years old and comes from the other side of the world.

Two young women from South Africa, however, made just that choice when they decided to study at the University of the Western Cape and Zhejiang Chinese Medical University, exploring the world of Traditional Chinese Medicine and culture.

Sinovuyo Mkula, a fourth-year student studying Chinese medicine and acupuncture, was excited when she took her first steps.

"The work we do has more of an authentic and natural approach to healing. I wanted to become part of a community that would help save our Earth and the many people looking for a way out of 'normal' medicinal approaches," she said in her speech to the Global Generation Z Forums.

Shannah Rose Erasmus has taken one step further, as she plans to complete her master's at Zhejiang Chinese Medical University. "As my understanding of TCM deepened over the years, so did my interest in Chinese culture," she said, adding that she felt that it would be beneficial to study Chinese medicine in its environment.

Students like Mkula and Erasmus have acted as liaisons in helping to implement TCM in South African communities and in its public health system.

"Through my studies, I hope to give back to my community, engage in cultural exchange and better the lives of the people of South Africa," Erasmus said.

Mkula has incorporated the principles of TCM in her daily life and spoke of many patients opting for alternative medicine in helping to treat illness. She said that many Africans have seen its benefits and are intrigued by the new possibilities it presents.

The promotion of TCM is one of the projects included in the Belt and Road Initiative, and Mkula believes that the initiative may also contribute to intellectual development, helping countries to move ahead and develop.

Volunteer reflects on Olympic experience

By WANG XIAOYING
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What is the most important role of a volunteer at big events like the Olympics?

For Liu Dibo, the answer is not only being nice to attendees and indulging in small talk, but acting as a cultural communicator.

The 23-year-old PhD candidate at Tsinghua University's School of Environment spoke about forming a warm friendship with a senior Olympic official amid the frosty environment of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games.

As an Olympic Family Assistant, Liu's task was to help senior Olympic Games figures while they were in Beijing, accompanying them to venues and places of interest, arranging meetings for them and acting as an interpreter.

Liu Dibo

Francesco Ricci Bitti, the president of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations, was one of those senior figures Liu helped.

Ricci Bitti had visited Beijing during the Summer Olympics in 2008, so Liu made it his mission to tell him about how much China had changed since then.

As they passed the China Ethnic Museum one day, Liu spoke to Ricci Bitti about national unity; near Tian'anmen Square, he discussed the waves of construction in the city over the centuries; and when they visited the Yanqing Olympic Village in the mountains outside Beijing, Liu talked about national efforts to promote sustainable development.

"At such moments, we young people have the chance to tell people from other countries how we understand our culture, our belief in our culture, and our confidence in our culture," Liu said.

Ricci Bitti was impressed by Liu's warm and effective assistance.

They became friends even though Liu was a young Chinese man in his early 20s and Ricci Bitti was an Italian who a few weeks earlier had celebrated his 80th birthday.

After the Beijing Games were over and they drove to the airport together, Ricci Bitti turned to Liu and said: "I hope to see you in Milan for the Winter Olympics in 2026."

It occurred to Liu that when Ricci Bitti returned to Italy, he may have spoken positively about China to his relatives and acquaintances in much the same way as Marco Polo did a little more than 700 years ago, which helped promote ties between the East and the West.

As pointed out in the report to the 20th CPC National Congress last month, China will accelerate the development of its discourse and narrative systems, better tell its stories, make its voice heard and present a China that is credible, appealing and respectable.

It will also deepen exchange and mutual learning with other civilizations and better present Chinese culture to the world.

"This is not only the task of Chinese youth today, but also the task of the Chinese youth of the future," Liu said.

"Undertaking that task is all the more important at a time when it seems that the connection between people worldwide is becoming fragmented. But China insists on doing its best to show the world that human beings are still united."

COMMENT

Editorials

Solidarity, courage and conviction needed to pass the test of the times

What's wrong with the world? What should we do about it?

These, as President Xi Jinping said in his remarks at the first session of the 17th G20 Summit in Bali, Indonesia, on Tuesday, are the questions of our times.

He called on all countries to join hands to answer these questions so as to tide over the current difficulties and create a better future.

As he once again made clear, China's answers to these questions are: it is the divisions and confrontations within the international community that are the fundamental problem, and the remedy is for all countries to stand with one another in the face of risks and challenges, whatever their differences may be.

Certainly, as all must know, the challenges are taxing and many, from the stubborn COVID-19 pandemic and the fragile global economy to the tense geopolitical environment, climate change and the food and energy crises. And all of these issues are compounding one another due to the inadequate global governance that is a consequence of the lack of accord. Yet all these challenges brook no delay in meeting them with the conviction that they can be overcome with courage and solidarity.

Urging the other G20 leaders to recognize that divisions lead nowhere and solidarity is strength, Xi called on them to do their best for the cause of global development.

As its response to global crisis showed, the G20, which brings together the developed and major developing countries, can be an effective platform for action when its members take a concerted approach to address a crisis. As frontrunners in development, they have the capability to realize the summit's theme of "Recover Together, Recover Stronger" and ensure that in doing so no countries are left behind.

The Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative that Xi has already put forward are aimed at facilitating an international consensus on promoting common development and realizing peace and stability which are necessary for preventing a divergent and unbalanced global recovery, and many countries have already welcomed these prescriptions for the world's woes.

In his speech, Xi not only pointed the way for countries to cope with the pandemic crisis and accelerate an economic restart, he also pointed the way to inject stronger momentum into international cooperation to realize a global community with a shared future.

Solidarity and the shouldering of responsibilities were what Xi asked of his fellow leaders. How they respond to that appeal will to a great extent determine how the world emerges from the present headwinds.

Cautious optimism that co-existence possible

Briefing the media on Monday on the outcome of the first in-person meeting between President Xi Jinping and US President Joe Biden, which wrapped up earlier that day in Bali, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi expressed cautious optimism that China and the United States can find a way to get along.

If so, the meeting will prove to have been of great practical significance in checking the worsening of bilateral ties by initiating the process of rebuilding mutual trust, which will have an important and far-reaching impact on China-US relations in the future.

Matching words with deeds is the key to moving forward. The meeting instilled confidence that by having in-depth communication and making intentions clear, redlines can be observed and ties can be guided in the right direction of win-win cooperation.

If the two countries can do that, they will not only be able to avoid confrontation but they will serve the interests of the two countries too and deliver tangible benefits to the two peoples and the world at large.

The meeting has made the direction clear for the healthy development of Sino-US relations and as President Xi said, the two sides should be responsible to history, the world and the people of the world to ensure that China-US relations stay on the right course and do not yaw, stall or collide.

Agreeing on the importance of establishing the guiding principles for China-US relations, the two heads of state tasked the working teams of the two sides to conduct follow-up consultations and strive to reach an agreement as soon as possible on the basis of the consensus reached so far.

China values the pledges Biden has reiterated on many occasions that the US does not seek a "new Cold War", to change China's system and to strengthen its alliance against China, and does not support "Taiwan independence", and has no intention of engaging in conflict or confrontation with China. And if mutual respect and the fostering of win-win cooperation serve as the foundation for the two sides' concerted endeavors to manage their differences, then the two sides should be able to prevent competition from becoming anything even close to a conflict, and to find ways to work together on urgent global issues.

Now, how the process to implement the important consensus reached by the two leaders unfolds will determine if optimism, however cautious, has been merely wishful thinking. The teams of the two sides should follow the priorities set by the two heads of state to the letter, maintain dialogue and communication, and properly manage their differences so as to promote exchanges and cooperation.

Doing so will not only inject positive energy into China-US relations but also install a safety valve.

Region should beware zombie's apocalypse now

As a relic of the Cold War, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization should long ago have been laid to rest. Yet despite the more temperate times that followed the disintegration of the Soviet Union, it was kept animated by ideological summoners on both sides of the Atlantic who claimed that it still had a role to play.

Thus in the guise of a peacemaker, it was sent to meddle in various regional and international affairs. In recent years, with the incantation of the noble trinity — "human rights, democracy and peace" — ringing in its ears, it has compounded the suffering in Syria, Afghanistan, Libya and former Yugoslavia.

NATO's relentless stretching of its legs eastward has also been the reason for the ongoing Ukraine conflict as it totally ignored Russia's legitimate security concerns, pushing it into a corner.

And say what you like about the Joe Biden administration, but its powers of necromancy are undeniable. It has transformed what was acknowledged to be a brain dead alliance into a blood-lusting zombie, which, while still brainless, is malleable to manipulation by presenting it with a virtualized reality in which the Cold War has never ended.

The upshot, as Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov noted during a news conference at the conclusion of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on Sunday, is that NATO is no longer a purely defensive alliance as intended. Indeed, it no longer claims to be.

Following the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the other NATO countries lost no time in joining the US in fanning the flames of the conflict by providing Ukraine with funds and weapons, turning the hostilities into a proxy war for NATO. And Lavrov warned that NATO, not content with the chaos it has wrought so far, now has its eyes set on Southeast Asia.

Instead of acknowledging the widespread harmful consequences of their actions in Europe, which are many, the leaders of the NATO states have chosen to view their actions through bourbon-tinted glasses and heady from their excess are enthusiastically encouraging the US' Asia-Pacific allies to join their revelry. By breathing new life into the US' old alliances with countries in the region such as Japan and Australia, and forcing others in the region to take sides in the US-instigated endeavor to contain China's rise and development, NATO is clearly set to extend its troublemaking to the Asia-Pacific region.

The essence of the US' "Indo-Pacific strategy" is to revive the Cold War tactic of bloc-to-bloc confrontation and zero-sum games in the region and by means of a bloated and battle-hungry NATO impose its will on the region.

Given NATO's notorious history in meddling in regional affairs plus its defiance of international law and penchant for selfish gains at the expense of other's security interests, allowing NATO to gain a foothold in the Asia-Pacific would spell calamity for the region.

Through the hard work and concerted efforts of regional countries, the Asia-Pacific has become one of the most peaceful and stable regions in the world. The attempt to conjure NATO or a doppelganger into the region should be rejected by the regional countries.

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Luo Jie

Opinion Line

Demonstration zones sign of higher level of opening-up

The central government has recently issued a notice on the establishment of 29 more national demonstration zones for innovative development of the import trade, raising the number of such zones in China to 43. This marks China's renewed efforts to expand imports and promote higher-level opening-up.

In the first 10 months of this year, the total value of China's foreign trade reached 34.62 trillion yuan ($4.91 trillion), up 9.5 percent year-on-year. Imports during the period reached 14.91 trillion yuan, up 5.2 percent. China has been the world's second-largest importer for 13 consecutive years and is now a major export destination for 60 countries and regions across the world, with its imports accounting for 10.6 percent of the world's total imports in the first half of this year.

As an import promotion platform, the 14 national demonstration zones previously identified by the authorities have adopted a series of pioneering policies to promote deep integration of the import trade with industries and consumption and formed their respective advantages and characteristics.

In the demonstration zone in Nansha district, Guangzhou, Guangdong province, six import platforms each with an import value of more than 10 billion yuan have been formed, mainly focusing on wine, milk powder, healthcare products and other industries.

A report on the development of China's import trade recently released by several domestic universities concludes that the 14 demonstration zones have played a leading role in promoting import facilitation and exploring new formats for the import trade.

The establishment of the national demonstration zones has further driven the country to adopt related policies to expand imports and market openness. For example, China has adjusted tariffs on 954 imported goods this year, and streamlined the workflow of cross-border e-commerce retail imports.

Greater support for imports of advanced technology, important equipment and key parts and components has promoted the upgrading of the country's industrial structure. The expansion of such national demonstration zones will also help China strengthen trade promotion and innovation. Also, more countries and regions will share the opportunities of China's opening-up and development.

— ECONOMIC DAILY

HK marches forward thanks to rule of law

China has only one national anthem, *March of the Volunteers*. The organizers of every sports event know the anthems of participating countries; after all they need to play playing countries' anthems ahead of every match.

So it is no minor offense that before the Chinese team from the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region defeated the Republic of Korea 2-0 at the Asia Rugby Sevens, an annual regional tournament, on Sunday, the organizers at the ROK's Busan Asiad Stadium played a song that was widely sung by troublemakers during the social turmoil in Hong Kong in 2019.

The Hong Kong SAR government said through a press release that the Asian Rugby Football Union has apologized to the Hong Kong Rugby Union, and even confirmed that the latter had submitted the correct national anthem, while blaming "human error" for the goof-up. The Korea Football Association said it took steps to ensure no banners with political messages came up at the stadium.

While the players didn't react to the wrong song, reports said that some among the audience who were from Hong Kong sang along. This calls for a probe to know who these home-haters with evil designs are.

The incident also shows that the home-haters have so little influence in Hong Kong now that they have to go outside of the SAR's jurisdiction to carry out such stunts. With the National Security Law coming into effect two years ago, nobody dares utter "independence" or advocate violence in Hong Kong any more.

The fact that these troublemakers can only think of creating mischief outside of Hong Kong also shows how little influence they wield as the new law has emboldened the peace-loving Hong Kong residents against the home-haters. It is time these home-haters gave up their evil designs and joined the common prosperity of Hong Kong.

— ZHANG ZHOUXIANG, CHINA DAILY

What They Say

Well-balanced consolidation of food security

Over the past decade, China, with nearly one-fifth of the world's population, has effectively prevented and resisted all kinds of risks and challenges by keeping a firm grip on its food security.

Last year, China's per capita grain supply was 483 kilograms, much higher than the international food security standard of 400 kg. That has helped lay the foundation for the country to make remarkable achievements in stabilizing macroeconomic development, meet the needs of the people, and respond to international turbulence.

With the continuous improvement of the mechanism for maintaining grain stability, the main contradiction of grain supply has changed from food shortage to imbalanced structure. So at present, optimizing the grain structure and improving the quality of grain have become the focuses for the nation's efforts related to food security.

Over the past five years, the transformation of China's agricultural development mode has accelerated, and the development of resource-saving and environmentally friendly agriculture has been expedited.

The country has carried out a series of policies and measures, such as the pilot program of crop rotation and fallowing, the zero-growth program of fertilizers and pesticides, and the black soil protection program, which have effectively promoted the optimization of the grain supply structure in a sustainable direction.

China has also markedly improved the quality of its grain. In 2021, the grain quality and safety inspection and monitoring system covered more than 60 percent of the major grain producing counties, those with more than 50,000 tons of grain output every year.

Based on the grain market demand, the country has constantly adjusted its grain production structure by giving full play to the decisive role of the market in allocating resources, and promoting the continuous optimization of the crop variety structure and regional grain distribution.

The planting structure integrating grain, commercial crops and feed crops has been largely established, focusing on the development of the crop varieties that the market has a large demand for, such as strong gluten and weak gluten wheat, high-quality rice and soybean. Grassroots government departments have taken the initiative to guide farmers to plan the planting structure in advance by providing them with market information and agricultural science and technology.

Yet, China still needs to make more efforts in the following three aspects to ensure its food security: enlarging the area of high-standard farmland, extending the value chains of the grain industry and stabilizing grain circulation system and supply chains. In particular, the country should focus on strengthening the resilience and stability of the grain supply chain, and improving the grain market monitoring and early warning system and emergency response system. By relying on big data, cloud computing and other information technology platforms, China should take the initiative to deal with the uncertainties in grain circulation.

— 21ST CENTURY BUSINESS HERALD

SPEECH/VIEWS

Working Together to Meet the Challenges of Our Times and Build a Better Future

Remarks by H.E. Xi Jinping President of the People's Republic of China At Session I of the 17th G20 Summit

Bali, 15 November 2022

Your Excellency President Joko Widodo, Colleagues,

It gives me great pleasure to attend the G20 Bali Summit. At the outset, I wish to thank President Joko Widodo and the Indonesian government for making these thoughtful arrangements for the Summit. I also salute the Indonesian presidency for its important role in promoting G20 cooperation.

We meet at a time of momentous changes unseen in a century, changes that are consequential to the world, to our times, and to history. The COVID-19 pandemic still drags on with cases surging here and there. The world economy is getting more fragile. The geopolitical environment remains tense. Global governance is seriously inadequate. Food and energy crises are compounded with one another. All this poses formidable challenges to our development.

Faced with these challenges, it is imperative that all countries embrace the vision of a community with a shared future for mankind, and advocate peace, development, and win-win cooperation. All countries should replace division with unity, confrontation with cooperation, and exclusion with inclusiveness. All countries should join hands together to answer the question of our times — "what is wrong with this world, what we should do about it" — so as to tide over difficulties and create a better future together.

All G20 members should take the responsibility inherent in being major international and regional players, and should lead by example in promoting development of all nations, improving the well-being for the whole mankind, and advancing progress of the entire world.

— We should make global development more inclusive. Solidarity is strength, but division leads nowhere. Living in the same global village, we should stand with each other in the face of risks and challenges. Drawing ideological lines or promoting group politics and bloc confrontation will only divide the world, and hinder global development and human progress. With human civilization already in the 21st century, the Cold-War mentality has long been outdated. What we need to do is to join hands together and elevate our win-win cooperation to a new height.

Countries should respect each other, seek common grounds while reserving differences, live together in peace, and promote an open world economy. No one should engage in beggar-thy-neighbor practices, building "a small yard with high fences", or creating closed and exclusive clubs.

I always believe that the G20 should stay committed to its founding purpose of unity and cooperation, carry forward the spirit of solidarity, and uphold the principle of consensus. "Sugarcane and lemongrass grow in dense clumps." This Indonesian proverb well captures the value of solidarity. Division and confrontation serve no one's interest. Only solidarity and common development is the right choice to make.

— We should make global development beneficial to all. Development is real only when all countries develop together. Prosperity and stability cannot be possible in a world where the rich become richer while the poor are made poorer. Every nation aspires for a better life, and modernization is not a privilege reserved for any single country. Frontrunners in development should sincerely help others develop, and provide more global public goods. All major countries should perform their due responsibilities, and do their best for the cause of global development.

The Global Development Initiative (GDI) that I proposed is aimed at meeting the long-term objective and immediate needs of common development of the world, fostering international consensus on promoting development, cultivating new drivers for global development, and facilitating common development and progress of all countries.

Within one year, more than 60 countries have joined the Group of Friends of the GDI. China has established the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund, and will increase its funding for the China-UN Peace and Development Fund. We will make a list of items for practical cooperation, set up an open-ended pool of GDI projects, and draw up a roadmap for GDI implementation. We are working with 100-plus countries and international organizations on the GDI, thus providing new impetus for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. China has submitted 15 projects to the "G20 Action for Strong and Inclusive Recovery", and has participated in five other projects within this framework. We will work with fellow G20 members to deliver on these projects.

— We should make global development more resilient. Economic globalization is encountering headwinds, and the world economy is at risk of recession. Everyone is having a hard time, but developing countries are bearing the brunt. It is therefore more imperative than ever for us to focus on the issue of development. The theme of the Bali Summit, "Recover Together, Recover Stronger", sends a positive message of the G20's commitment to supporting the growth of developing countries and preventing divergent and unbalanced global recovery. We need to build a global partnership for economic recovery, prioritize development and put the people at the center, always keep in mind the difficulties faced by developing countries, and accommodate their concerns. China supports the African Union in joining the G20.

All parties should continue to deepen international cooperation against COVID-19, and raise the accessibility and affordability of vaccines, medicines, and diagnostic and treatment methods in developing countries so as to create a sound environment for economic recovery. We should curb global inflation, and defuse systemic economic and financial risks. In particular, developed economies should mitigate the negative spillovers from their monetary policy adjustment, and keep their debts at sustainable levels. The IMF should speed up the on-lending of SDRs to low-income countries. International financial institutions and commercial creditors, which are the main creditors of developing countries, should take part in the debt reduction and suspension for developing countries. China is implementing the G20's Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) in all respects, and has suspended the largest amount of debt service payment among all G20 members. Meanwhile, China is working with some G20 members on the debt treatment under the Common Framework for Debt Treatment beyond the DSSI, thus helping relevant developing countries navigate through the difficult time.

Global trade, digital economy, green transition and fighting corruption are key factors driving global development. We should continue to uphold the WTO-centered multilateral trading system, actively push forward WTO reform, enhance trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, and promote an open world economy. China has proposed the G20 Action on Digital Innovation and Cooperation. We look forward to working with all parties to foster an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment for digital economy so as to narrow the North-South digital divide. In tackling climate change and transitioning toward green and low-carbon development, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities must be upheld. It is also important to provide funding, technology and capacity-building support for developing countries and promote cooperation on green finance. International cooperation is very important for fighting corruption. G20 members must maintain zero tolerance for corruption, step up international cooperation on fugitive repatriation and asset recovery, and refuse to provide "safe havens" to corrupt individuals and assets.

Global development would be impossible without a peaceful and stable international environment. With this in mind, I have put forward the Global Security Initiative (GSI). Our goal is to work with all parties to champion the spirit of the UN Charter, act on the principle of indivisible security, uphold the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, advocate the resolution of conflicts through negotiation and settlement of disputes through consultation, and support all efforts conducive to the peaceful settlement of crises.

Colleagues,

Food and energy security is the most pressing challenge in global development. The root cause of the ongoing crises is not production or demand, but interrupted supply chains and international cooperation. The way out of this is for all countries to, with the coordination of the UN and other multilateral international organizations, enhance cooperation on market supervision and regulation, build partnerships on commodities, develop an open, stable and sustainable commodities market, and work together to unclog supply chains and stabilize market prices.

We must resolutely oppose the attempt to politicize food and energy issues or use them as tools and weapons. Unilateral sanctions must be removed, and restrictions on relevant scientific and technological cooperation must be lifted. In reducing the consumption of fossil fuel energy and transitioning toward clean energy, we need to give balanced consideration to various factors, and make sure that the transitional process does not hurt the economy or people's livelihood. Developing countries face more acute risks in food and energy security. The G20 should keep this in mind, and provide necessary support in production, collection, storage, funding and technology. Since the UN has established the Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance, the G20 should voice its support for it.

Over the years, China has made major contribution to global food and energy security. This year, China has proposed, together with six partners including Indonesia and Serbia, the Initiative of International Cooperation on Resilient and Stable Industrial and Supply Chains, joined other countries in calling for the establishment of the Global Clean Energy Cooperation Partnership, and put forward the International Cooperation Initiative on Global Food Security in the G20. We look forward to deepening cooperation with all parties in these areas.

Colleagues,

The Communist Party of China has recently convened its 20th National Congress, laying out the goals, tasks and guiding policies for the cause of the Party and the country in the next five years and beyond. China will stay committed to the path of peaceful development, stay committed to deepening reform and opening-up, and stay committed to promoting national rejuvenation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization. A China marching toward modernization will bring more opportunities to the world, inject stronger momentum for international cooperation, and make greater contribution to human progress!

Thank you.

Shen Dingli

US' sincerity to its commitments vital to bilateral ties

President Xi Jinping and his US counterpart Joe Biden met face-to-face in Bali, Indonesia, on Monday. In their talks lasting three hours and 12 minutes, the two leaders agreed that it was essential that both countries take concrete steps to get bilateral ties back on a stable track.

With Biden reiterating that the US does not seek a new Cold War or to revitalize alliances against China, and that the US does not support "Taiwan independence", "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan", and it has no intention of having a conflict with China, the meeting has raised hopes that the seemingly impending free fall in Sino-US ties can be averted.

However, it is crucial that the US should back those words with concrete actions to show its sincerity. The midterm elections have given Biden a fillip as the Democratic Party did better than expected. However, it reinforced the stark divide in US politics. Although the predicted "red wave" didn't appear and the Democrats have control of the Senate, the Republicans seem likely to regain control of the House of Representatives, which will make US domestic politics even more confrontational, as well as the relationship between the Executive Branch and Congress. This paints a gloomy picture for the direction of China-US relations.

At present, the US Congress is working on the "Taiwan Policy Act", which will not only elevate Taiwan to be a major non-NATO US ally but also pre-position US munitions on the island, with a clear message that the US will send its military to Taiwan in case of a Taiwan Straits contingency.

It should be noted that US domestic politics is driving China-US relations along an ever more dangerous path. The previous president, Donald Trump, declassified President Reagan's "six promises" while he was in office in 1982. And Biden has already said on four occasions that US forces will defend Taiwan "in the event of an invasion".

The current House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan in August to challenge China's sovereignty over Taiwan. And other US politicians

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have and more are likely to follow her example. If the Republicans do gain control of the House, Republican leader Kevin McCarthy has said he will visit Taiwan if he becomes the new House Speaker. Given Beijing's response to Pelosi's provocative visit, it is hardly possible to expect its response will be any less forceful should he do so.

To show its sincerity, the US administration needs to prevent Congress from making any more provocative moves. The present draft of the "Taiwan Policy Act" would deal a deadly blow to Sino-US ties as it calls for the appointment of an individual to the position of Director of the American Institute in Taiwan's Taipei office, who upon Senate confirmation, would have the title of Representative, thus providing "the people of Taiwan with de facto diplomatic treatment equivalent to foreign countries, nations, states, governments, or similar entities".

The draft also proposes that the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECO) in the US be upgraded to "Taiwan Representative Office". Such a move threatens to cut off all China-US trade. Early this year, Lithuania permitted the Taipei office in Vilnius to be renamed the "Taiwan representative office", seriously challenging the one-China principle. In response, China has banned all imports from Lithuania, including those from other countries or regions that include parts or components that are made in Lithuania. Beijing's resolute act sends the signal that it will not let the one-China principle be undermined.

The Biden administration needs to exercise caution lest US domestic politics derail China-US relations completely.

If the US does not act in accordance with Biden's commitment on the Taiwan question, one has to question how rational the US Congress and the entire political mentality of the US are.

The author is a professor and former executive dean of the Institute of International Studies, Fudan University. The views don't necessarily represent those of China Daily.

WORLD

Students from China 'welcome' at US colleges

State Department official says efforts are smoothing path back to campuses

By ZHAO HUANXIN in Washington
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A senior US State Department official said that efforts are being made to reduce barriers and cut waiting times for Chinese applying for student visas after enrollments from China dropped in the 2021-22 school year.

The number of students from China — the top place of origin among international students in the United States — was nearly 9 percent below that of the previous year.

The decline was 15 percent in the 2020-21 school year, at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

At a Nov 9 news conference for the Open Doors 2022 Report on International Educational Exchange, which was released on Monday to mark International Education Week, Ethan Rosenzweig, deputy assistant secretary of state for academic programs, said that the Biden administration has been "very clear" that Chinese students are welcome in the US.

US President Joe Biden has kept intact a proclamation issued in May 2020 by his predecessor, Donald Trump, which asks US consular officers to deny visas to Chinese students and researchers deemed "security threats" for alleged links to the Chinese military.

Asked about the concerns and difficulties of Chinese students in obtaining visas in the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields, Rosenzweig said he understood that those issues are "on everybody's mind".

"It's very important to note for your China Daily readers and for all students that Chinese students are welcome here, that our bureaus cooperate very closely to ensure that barriers are reduced, that wait times are minimal, and that Chinese students who have legitimate educational pursuits in the US are welcome here as easily as possible," Rosenzweig said.

Math and computer science surpassed engineering as the leading field of study for international students in 2021-22. In all, 41 percent of all international students are studying in those fields, according to the Open Doors Report, which measures and outlines trends in international student mobility.

In the fiscal year that concluded on Sept 30, US embassies and consulates worldwide issued nearly 600,000 student visas, 65,000 of which went to Chinese students, according to Robert Batchelder, a consul general at the US State Department.

Decreasing data

In June, the peak time for students to apply for visas to prepare for the start of the fall semester, the US issued 18,860 F-1 visas to Chinese nationals, down from 34,001 for the same period in 2019, according to State Department data.

"In STEM fields, I know there's a concern that applicants are scrutinized closely and that many of them are denied," Batchelder told China Daily. He said some perceptions about visa applications were "unfounded" and the scrutiny of and difficulty in student visa applications in China are no more difficult or complicated than elsewhere in the world.

The May 2020 presidential proclamation applies to a "very small handful of people, like maybe a couple in a week", he said. The "vast, overwhelming" majority of Chinese students who are looking to study in the US, including in STEM fields, are able to get their visas "without any serious delays or complications", he said.

But on the ground, even students who have been issued visas have experienced ordeals when landing on US soil.

In late September last year, the Chinese embassy in the US "lodged solemn representations" with the US about what happened to a Chinese student, who, with a valid visa issued by the US government, was deported after being "wantonly" interrogated at the border entrance and confined in a small room for more than 50 hours.

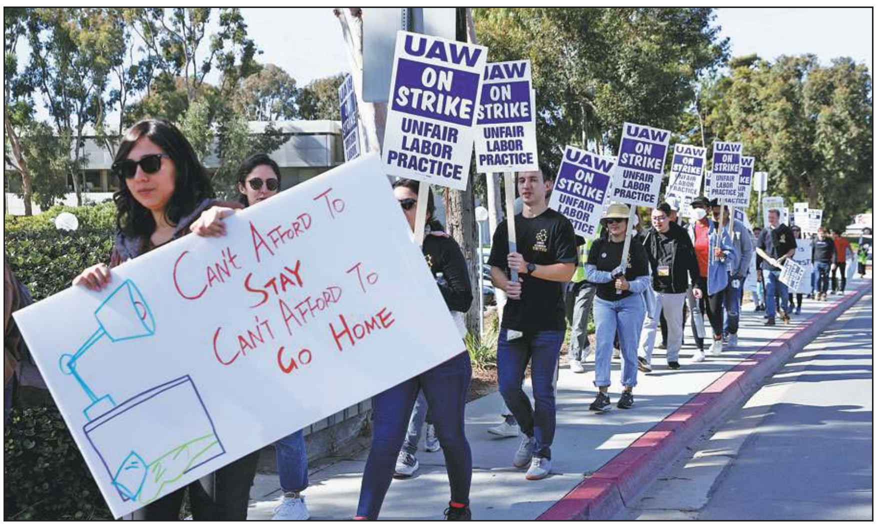
While the pandemic depressed study-abroad numbers, the tensions between China and the US have also been felt in the student programs between the two countries.

The number of US students going to study in China declined by 84.8 percent in the 2021-22 academic year to stand at 382, the lowest since 2011, when there were 14,887 US students at Chinese campuses, data from the Open Doors report indicated.

It also showed that after recording a nearly 15 percent drop in the number of international students from China in the 2020-21 academic year, the biggest decline in a decade, US colleges and universities continued to see the ranks of Chinese students shrink; this academic year, by 8.6 percent.

At 290,086 students, China remained the top-sending country to US campuses, which continue to prioritize recruitment in the country, Rosenzweig said.

Still, it was the first time since 2014 that the number of Chinese students in the US dipped below the 300,000 mark.



Academic workers at the University of California San Diego walk out in protest for better pay and working conditions in San Diego, California, on Monday. MIKE BLAKE / REUTERS

University workers strike after failed talks

By LIU YINMENG in Los Angeles
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Around 48,000 academic workers at the University of California walked off their jobs on Monday to demand higher salaries and better benefits.

Teaching assistants, researchers, postdoctoral scholars, tutors and graders across the UC system's 10 campuses took part in the strike, threatening to disrupt classroom and laboratory instruction shortly before final exams. It occurred after months of failed negotiations between union workers and university administrators.

Academic workers have been bargaining for months to address what they said are high rents, lack of job security and support for working parents and international scholars, according to a "hardship fund" campaign by strike organizers.

They accuse the UC system of engaging in "a wide variety of unlawful tactics" over the negotiation process, including unilaterally changing working conditions and refusing to provide the information workers needed for bargaining.

On Monday, workers holding signs that read "On strike" and "Unfair labor practices" demonstrated across campuses that include UCLA, UC San Diego, UC San Francisco, UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz and UC Merced.

The University of California said in a statement that it continues to "negotiate in good faith" and it is doing everything possible to mitigate the impacts of the strike on student learning.

Workers are seeking a minimum annual salary of $54,000, which is more than double their current average pay of about $24,000. Some workers, many of whom are graduate students, said they spend more than half of their salaries on rent.

"We are overworked and underpaid, and we are fed up," Jamie Mondello, a 27-year-old psychology graduate student worker at UCLA, told the Los Angeles Times.

In an interview with the local ABC station, graduate student researcher Desmond Fonseca said academic workers want to have wages that cover the cost of living in the city.

"Our primary demand is to get living wages, to have living situations that match the cost of living, that match the vital work that we do to not only sustain the university, but make the University of California the prestigious institution that it is," Fonseca said.

According to a report issued by the University of California student group United for a Fair Workplace, 92 percent of graduate student workers and 61 percent of postdoctoral students felt burdened by their rent.

This means they spend more than the federally established affordability limit, or 30 percent of their gross income, on housing. The average graduate student worker spends more than 52 percent of their salary on rent.

The University of California strike is the largest academic strike in higher education in US history, according to the United Auto Workers union.

WORLD

US, Russian intelligence chiefs meet in Ankara

By REN QI in Moscow
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The US and Russian chiefs of intelligence held a rare face-to-face meeting in Ankara on Monday, the White House said.

In what appeared to be the highest-level direct talks between officials of the two countries since the ongoing conflict began in Ukraine in February, US Central Intelligence Agency Director William Burns met with Sergey Naryshkin, head of Russia's SVR foreign intelligence service.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov confirmed on Tuesday that Russia-US talks did take place in Ankara at the initiative of the US side.

"Such negotiations did indeed take place. They were initiated by the US side," Peskov told Russia's TASS news agency. But he avoided disclosing the subject matter of the talks.

Fahrettin Altun, head of media and communications in the Turkish presidency, also confirmed the talks.

"Discussions were held with respect to threats to international security, including those related to the possible use of nuclear weapons," he said on NTV television.

In Kyiv, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky proposed an "all for all" prisoner swap with Russia during his virtual address to the G20 leaders in Bali on Tuesday.

The Ukrainian leader said this exchange should also include those civilians who left for Russia and children whom Kyiv calls "displaced persons".

According to a transcript of his remarks shared by the Ukrainian embassy in Indonesia, Zelensky outlined a 10-point peace plan to end the conflict with Russia, including a path to nuclear safety, food and energy security, a final peace treaty with Moscow, implementation of the United Nations Charter and some others.

However, the Kremlin has not made any response to Zelensky's G20 remarks about the prisoner swap yet. TASS quoted Finnish Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto on Monday as saying that any peace talks may be held only when Russia pulls out its troops from Ukraine.

Zelensky's G20 remarks came after he paid a surprise visit to Kherson on Monday. He told reporters that it was important to travel to Kherson, noting that servicemen and journalists on the ground were taking similar risks.

On Friday, Moscow said it had withdrawn from the west bank of the strategically important Dnieper River.

When asked about Zelensky's visit, Peskov said: "No comment. This is Russian territory."

Agencies contributed to this story.

Passengers fill up platforms in Colombo, Sri Lanka, during rush hour on Monday.
THILINA KALUTHOTAGE / NURPHOTO / SHUTTERSTOCK

Promise and peril as world tops 8b

UNITED NATIONS — The world's population surged past 8 billion people on Tuesday, the United Nations said, amid calls by the world body for nations to take action to bridge divides between the global haves and have-nots.

Whether it's food or water, batteries or gasoline, there will be less to go around as the global population adds another 2.4 billion people by the 2080s, according to UN projections.

In an opinion article published on Friday by the USA Today newspaper, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called the milestone of 8 billion people "a testament to scientific breakthroughs and improvements in nutrition, public health and sanitation".

The world can yield enormous opportunities for some of the poorest countries, where population growth is highest, said Guterres, adding that within a few decades, today's poorest countries could become engines of sustainable, green growth and prosperity across entire regions.

"But as our human family grows larger, it is also growing more divided," the UN chief warned.

He noted that billions of people are struggling, hundreds of millions are facing hunger and even famine, and record numbers are on the move seeking opportunities and relief from debt and hardship, wars and climate disasters.

"Unless we bridge the yawning chasm between the global haves and have-nots, we are setting ourselves up for an 8-billion-strong world filled with tensions and mistrust, crisis and conflict," wrote Guterres.

Wider wealth gap

As the world has grown richer and healthier in recent decades, the inequalities have grown too, he pointed out. A handful of billionaires control as much wealth as the poorest half of the world, and people in the richest countries can expect to live up to 30 years longer than those in the poorest, he said.

The accelerating climate crisis and the unequal recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic are turbocharging inequalities. The conflict in Ukraine is adding to food, energy and finance crises, hitting developing economies hardest, the UN chief said.

Anger and resentment against developed countries are reaching breaking points, Guterres said, while toxic divisions and lack of trust are causing delays and deadlock on issues from nuclear disarmament and terrorism to global health.

"We must curb these damaging trends, repair relationships and find joint solutions to our common challenges," he said.

The UN chief expressed hope that the COP27 climate conference in Egypt "will see a historic Climate Solidarity Pact under which developed and emerging economies unite around a common strategy and combine their capacities and resources for the benefit of humankind".

He called on wealthier countries to provide key emerging economies with financial and technical support to transition away from fossil fuels.

He also urged the Group of 20 summit in Bali, Indonesia, to adopt a stimulus package that will provide governments of the Global South with investments and liquidity, and address debt relief and restructuring.

XINHUA—AGENCIES

Allies' talk seen as worsening DPRK strains

Greater reliance on deterrence, drills not answer for peninsula, experts say

By YANG HAN in Hong Kong
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Talk of "strengthened deterrence" by the United States and its allies, Japan and the Republic of Korea, against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea may increase tensions on the Korean Peninsula, experts say.

With the apparent belief that denuclearization of the DPRK is not possible, the US, the ROK and Japan are doubling down on greater deterrence and military exercises to promote warfighting readiness, if deterrence were to fail, said Mason Richey, associate professor of international politics at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Seoul.

US President Joe Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and ROK President Yoon Suk-yeol agreed to work together to strengthen deterrence against the DPRK, according to a joint statement issued after a trilateral meeting on Sunday in Phnom Penh on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit.

Biden "reiterated that the US commitment to defend Japan and the ROK is ironclad and backed by the full range of capabilities, including nuclear", the statement said.

"Japan, the ROK, and the United States will coordinate sanctions and work together to close gaps in the international sanctions regime to ensure all relevant sanctions are fully enforced", the statement said.

The joint statement showed stronger coordination and cohesion between the three allies, said Hoo Chiew Ping, senior lecturer in strategic studies and international relations at the National University of Malaysia. However, "The fact that the US, Japan and the ROK are going to strengthen nuclear deterrence … will not help convince the DPRK to denuclearize first," said Hoo.

In terms of coordinated deterrence, Hoo said she expects enhanced missile defense systems among the three countries, among others.

Accusing the DPRK of carrying out ballistic missile launches this year, the three leaders also said they intended to share DPRK missile warning data in real-time.

Provocative words

Bong Young-shik, a research fellow at Yonsei Institute for North Korean Studies at Yonsei University in Seoul, said the joint statement will "definitely" irritate the DPRK, which was already seriously troubled by the resumed military exercises between the US and the ROK.

Bong said it might mean more pressure on the DPRK if the US intends to pay more attention to the security environment on the Korean Peninsula.

But Bong said both the ROK and Japan are interested only in maintaining nuclear deterrence, not a nuclear attack. "It's a clear difference," he said.

"The joint statement, of course, is a message of deterrence to Pyongyang, but also a message for Beijing," said Richey, as the allies want Beijing to help in "reining in Pyongyang".

The US, Japan and the ROK already warned on Oct 26 that if the DPRK resumes nuclear bomb tests, then that would warrant an "unparalleled" response.

In response to questions related to the warning, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a news conference late last month that China hopes the parties concerned will face squarely the root cause and timeline of events of the protracted impasse on the Korean Peninsula and do more to enhance mutual trust and address parties' concerns in a balanced way.

Briefly

UNITED STATES

Google pays $392m in landmark privacy case

Google on Monday agreed to pay $392 million to settle a landmark privacy case with 40 US states over accusations that the search engine giant misled users into believing location tracking on their devices had been switched off. A statement by Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum said it was the largest multistate privacy settlement by authorities in US history and included a binding commitment by Google for improved disclosures on targeting for customers. Google had been "crafty and deceptive", Rosenblum added as she announced the company's agreement to pay up to end the case.

UNITED KINGDOM

Unemployment edges up as pressures mount

Unemployment in the United Kingdom has edged up to 3.6 percent, but remains close to the lowest level in almost half a century, official data showed on Tuesday. The unemployment rate increased in the three months to the end of September from 3.5 percent in the three months to the end of August, the Office for National Statistics said in a statement. At 3.6 percent, it was around the lowest level since 1974. At the same time, sky-high inflation continues to squeeze wages, resulting in mass strike action across Britain. UK annual inflation stands at more than 10 percent — the highest level in four decades — and is forecast to keep rising along with unemployment as energy bills and food prices soar.

ISRAEL

1,000-yr-old doll made of bone discovered

Israeli archaeologists have discovered a bone-made doll dated to about a thousand years ago, the Israel Antiquities Authority said on Monday. The ancient doll was unearthed in excavations conducted at the Usha archaeological site in northern Israel, near the Mediterranean coastal city of Haifa. Such dolls were popular among all population strata in ancient Israel, beginning with the rule of the Umayyad Caliphate dynasty in the Early Muslim period in the 7th century until the end of the Crusader period in the 13th century. Most dolls of this type were made from the leg bones of cows, camels, goats or sheep. However, it has not been revealed yet which animal bone the recently found doll was made from.

AGENCIES—XINHUA

Global water crisis sparks calls for more action

By EDITH MUTETHYA
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Experts, leaders and social groups at the ongoing United Nations Climate Change Conference, or COP27, have called for action on water adaptation and resilience in the fight against climate change.

They noted that human-induced climate change is not only making water scarcer due to droughts and rapid evaporation, but it is also increasing the frequency of heavy rainfall events and accelerating the melting of glaciers.

Hani Sewilam, Egypt's minister of water resources and irrigation, said the global water crisis is currently affecting billions of people worldwide and is projected to be further aggravated by increasing demand, changing water availability and increasing impacts of floods and droughts.

He said Africa is harshly affected by rising temperatures, noting that more than half of the continent is under severe drought even as it experiences sea level rise at more than 3 millimeters per year.

As part of the solution, the COP27 presidency in partnership with the World Meteorological Organization launched the Action for Water Adaptation and Resilience Initiative to address water-related challenges and solutions across climate change adaptation.

A woman fills up water containers at a tap in a camp for internally displaced people in Baidoa, Somalia, on Nov 9. GUY PETERSON / AFP

The initiative is expected to push for water and adaptation investments for the most vulnerable communities and ecosystems in Africa.

In close cooperation with the African Union and African Ministers' Council on Water among other stakeholders, the initiative aims at offering transitional adaptation solutions for the planet and its people.

It will focus on decreasing water losses worldwide and improving water supply. It will also propose and support implementing mutually agreed policy and methods for cooperative water-related adaptation action and its co-benefits.

The initiative will also promote cooperation and interlinkages between water and climate action in order to achieve Agenda 2030, particularly Sustainable Development Goal 6 that focuses on clean water and sanitation for all.

Sewilam said the initiative will catalyze inclusive cooperation to address water as a key to climate change adaptation and its co-benefits, as well as enhanced resilience.

"I urge the agencies, international organizations and friends and countries to express interest in joining the initiative and specify projects and actions to be implemented on the ground," he said.

Sameh Shoukry, president of COP27, said the initiative will bring together stakeholders to alleviate the challenges faced by the world's vulnerable communities and ecosystems.

Elena Manaenkova, deputy secretary-general of the World Meteorological Organization, said 74 percent of all natural disasters are water-related and Africa is particularly vulnerable with the most killers being floods and droughts.

According to a paper launched by the UN Climate Change High-Level Champions at the climate conference on Monday, floods killed over 435 people in South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal Province in April and caused more than $1.57 billion in infrastructure damage.

In Nigeria, October floods killed 600 people, displaced more than 1.4 million people and affected over 2.5 million. Additionally, cholera is on the rise in the country due to flooding.

THE COMPANIES ACT (2022 REVISION)
NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DECLARE SECOND INTERIM DIVIDEND
SUNTECH POWER HOLDINGS CO., LTD. (IN OFFICIAL LIQUIDATION) (THE COMPANY)
GRAND COURT CAUSE NO. FSD 143 OF 2013 (RPJ)

TO: THE CREDITORS OF THE COMPANY
TAKE NOTICE that the Official Liquidator intends to declare an interim dividend.
Any creditor wishing to participate in the second interim dividend must lodge his proof of debt with the Official Liquidator no later than 16 December 2022, failing which you will be excluded from the second interim distribution, but you will not be excluded from any subsequent distribution or the final distribution.
Proof of debt forms can be obtained from the Official Liquidator using the contact details below.
Dated this 16th day of November 2022.

Simon Conway
Joint Official Liquidator
Contact for Enquiries: Sarah Moxam
Sarah.moxam@pwc.com
Telephone: + 1 345 914 8634
Address for Service: PwC Corporate Finance & Recovery (Cayman) Limited
18 Forum Lane
Camana Bay
Grand Cayman KY1-1104
Cayman Islands

关于公司法（2022 年修订版）
拟第二次派发中期股息的通知
尚德电力控股有限公司（清盘中）（以下简称“本公司”）
大法院案件编号 FSD 143 of 2013 (RPJ)

致： 本公司债权人
兹通知，正式清盘人拟向本公司债权人派发中期股息。
欲参与第二次中期股息派发的债权人必须不迟于 2022 年 12 月 16 日向正式清盘人提交债权证明，否则您将不能获得第二次中期股息分配，但您不会被排除在任何后续分配或最终分配之外。
债权证明表格可通过以下联系方式从正式清盘人处获得。
本公告日期为 2022 年 11 月 16 日。

Simon Conway
联合正式清盘人
联系人信息： 姓名： Sarah Moxam
电子邮箱： Sarah.moxam@pwc.com
电话： + 1 345 914 8634
服务地址： PwC Corporate Finance & Recovery (Cayman) Limited
18 Forum Lane
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Grand Cayman KY1-1104
Cayman Islands

A view of coastal city Qingdao in East China's Shandong province. ZHANG JIANHUA / FOR CHINA DAILY

Qingdao's GDP growth rate among the fastest of cities across China

Officials ramp up efforts to hit annual economic, social development goals

By HAO NAN
haonan@chinadaily.com.cn

The economic growth rate of Qingdao, East China's Shandong province, outpaced most cities in China during the first three quarters of the year, showing a trend of positive recovery and continuous improvement.

The city's GDP exceeded 1.1 trillion yuan ($151.36 billion) in the first nine months, official statistics showed.

As the end of the year approaches, government departments in Qingdao are ramping up efforts to achieve their economic and social development goals.

In the fourth quarter, the city is pouring more resources into promoting the real economy and investment attractions in a bid to consolidate the foundation of its high-quality development.

The city has been pushing forward a three-year campaign to revitalize the real economy, making greater efforts to cultivate and develop 24 key industrial chains, and promoting the construction of 316 important projects with a total investment of more than 700 billion yuan, said the Qingdao development and reform commission.

1.1
trillion yuan
Qingdao's GDP generated in the first nine months of this year

The city has also been boosting the integrated development of 10 emerging industrial clusters, accelerating the building of a new service system, and advancing local modern industries.

Following national directives, Qingdao has formulated an implementation plan for green and low-carbon development, driving the intelligent and eco-friendly transformation of industries.

Another focus of the city is to construct industrial parks of a high standard, especially in emerging sectors such as new-generation display and integrated circuitry.

One of the largest advantages in Qingdao is that industry plays an important role in realizing the annual targets on economic and social development, the Qingdao industry and information technology bureau said.

The bureau said the city has conducted regular investigations on the business operation of companies. It organizes nearly 500 enterprises to do monthly and quarterly questionnaires, aiming to strengthen data monitoring of industrial electricity consumption, product output, production orders, redundancies, product inventory and raw material prices.

The initiative allows the bureau to accurately control the firsthand situation of corporate operations and industry development.

Qingdao has also established special service teams for large enterprises like Haier, Hisense and Tsingtao Brewery, and tailored preferential policies for them to support the implementation of the "output value doubling program".

The services and policies cover such fields as project construction, recruitment, logistics, operation monitoring, financing and power supply.

The city has also helped manufacturing enterprises build a closed-loop project management system from construction to operations, and tried to get some projects into operation ahead of schedule.

Expanding effective investment remains a top priority in the fourth quarter, officials said.

At the construction site of a virtual reality industrial park in Laoshan district, more than 380 workers are working hard to ensure that the first batch of plants will be delivered in March.

Companies including BOE Technology, Zhongnan Hi-Tech and Ronghe Optoelectronics plan to locate projects at a new-type display industrial park. The park is situated in the city's West Coast New Area, covering a region of 18,000 mu (1,200 hectares).

Qingdao will continue to highlight the construction of 380 key projects, and vigorously promote the major urban renewal projects such as the Lairong high-speed railway and the Blue Valley to Jiaodong International Airport express track, the city's development and reform commission said.

Entering the fourth quarter, Qingdao is sparing no effort to pursue improvements in the quantity and quality of foreign trade and investment, said the city's commerce bureau.

It has established mechanisms to guarantee services for foreign factories, warehousing and logistics enterprises in Qingdao, which are on the list issued by the Ministry of Commerce.

Qingdao has also encouraged companies engaged in foreign trade to make full use of the online 132nd China Import and Export Fair, or Canton Fair, which will end in March 2023. It also plans to add more than 400 new retail and wholesale catering companies by the end of the year.

Development plans launched by officials to meet new demands

By YIN RUOWEI
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Qingdao in Shandong province has rolled out plans to meet the practical demands emerging in the nation and to shoulder new responsibilities in the coming years, according to local officials.

The Qingdao West Coast New Area is now working on 181 tasks and 82 items that need to be refined. For instance, the area will promote 101 key marine projects worth 200 billion yuan ($27.58 billion) in total, and team up with the Center for Ocean Mega-Science of the Chinese Academy of Sciences on innovative marine projects.

The area's goals include increasing its annual gross marine product by more than 10 percent, which is expected to account for over 40 percent of the city's total, achieving more than 30 high-level innovations throughout the year, building industrial parks centered on integrated circuits, advanced polymers, metals, hydrogen energy and energy storage, as well as creating more than 80,000 jobs.

Jiaozhou, a county-level city belonging to Qingdao, is embarking on a mission to support the development of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

It is home to the China-SCO Local Economic and Trade Cooperation Demonstration Area, China-SCO Institute of Economy and Trade, Qingdao SCO Pearl International Expo Center and a comprehensive service platform for the China-SCO local economic and trade cooperation.

The national-level Jiaodong Airport Demonstration Economic Zone is also located in the city, which is scheduled to promote the integration of industry, transportation and urban life, and high-end manufacturing.

Located at the south coast of Qingdao, Shinan district is paying attention to urban renewal projects. It is now implementing 22 such projects and preparing for 134 key projects.

It is also working on the renovation of old residential areas, construction of public parking lots and protection of historical sites.

101
key projects
related to the marine sector are set to be promoted in the Qingdao West Coast New Area

Eyeing opportunities brought by the high-level opening-up, Shibei district has associated itself with the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership agreement. It aims to stand out from its peers to build a RCEP Shandong economic and trade cooperation zone and gather more than 200 shipping, trade and financial enterprises in its cruise port area in the next three years.

Its local officials said that they strive to provide good services to the 199,000 market players in the district and create a heartwarming business environment for them.

Chengyang district has about 2,000 Japanese and South Korean enterprises, who favor the area's location and environment. Next, it will team up with enterprises from these countries to build several venues with foreign elements. Staff members of these enterprises are expected to take part in the planning, design, construction, investment promotion and operation of the venues.

In 2021, the total retail sales of social consumer goods of Chengyang increased by 20.8 percent, ranking first in the city.

According to local officials, the district will speed up the construction of a number of high-end consumer complexes integrating food, accommodation, travel, entertainment and education, and open a number of shops that will be sought after by trend seekers.

Laoshan district in Qingdao embraces a people-centered development philosophy. It focuses on hot issues that its residents care about, such as education, healthcare, employment and social security, and has launched a number of new policies accordingly.

According to local officials, residents can make great use of a hotline and government service platform to communicate with officials and solve their problems in a timely manner.

Metropolis becoming a booming hub for business

By SONG MENGXING
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Qingdao respects and supports entrepreneurs, which was evidenced in its recent fellowship event.

It was held by the Qingdao enterprise union and the city's entrepreneur association on the Qingdao Entrepreneur Day, Nov 1, arranged by Qingdao's legislative body.

Li Fengli, the union's president, said the union and the association have contacted societies related to Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan and established platforms in the regions for attracting investment.

They cooperated with authorities such as the Qingdao investment promotion office and the service and management bureau of Qingdao International Cruise Terminal Area to help local businesspeople.

It is necessary to develop the union and the association into havens of companies and homes of entrepreneurs, Li said, adding that they will provide precise and efficient services to businesses.

The union also signed agreements with hospitals, such as Ruijin Hospital Shanghai Jiaotong University School of Medicine and the Affiliated Hospital of Qingdao University, to make it convenient for entrepreneurs to visit doctors.

More than 100 locally noted businesspeople visited the cruise terminal area and a cultural and historical block and enjoyed artistic performances on the evening of Nov 1.

The private economy plays an important role in Qingdao as more than 95 percent of its companies are private ones. The city's 14 innovative measures for supporting reform and development of private enterprises have been spread nationwide.

Several renowned companies have been founded in Qingdao since the reform and opening-up policy was adopted in 1978. Among them are home appliance makers Haier, Hisense and Aucma, as well as Tsingtao Brewery.

Influential and excellent entrepreneurs such as Zhang Ruimin, founder of Haier, have showcased their courage and vigor.

Young and competitive companies are emerging in Qingdao under its environment of caring about entrepreneurs and supporting their growth.

In total, a further 54 Qingdao businesses were among the fourth young small companies from the medium and high-end fields released by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology this year. The city is now home to 151 such companies.

An intelligent heavy industry manufacturing center holds a ceremony marking the start of construction work. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

The China-SCO Local Economic and Trade Cooperation Demonstration Area displays its achievements at the recent China International Import Expo in Shanghai. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

China SCO team has fruitful exchanges in Central Asia

By SONG MENGXING

The China-SCO Local Economic and Trade Cooperation Demonstration Area from Qingdao drew attention as its publicity activity was hosted in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, on Nov 2.

SCO is short for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation which was founded in 2001 and now has eight member countries.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Uzbekistan. The Qingdao government delegation made Uzbekistan an important venue for its foreign visits against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Results could be seen at promotional events held recently in several member countries of the SCO.

Liu Jianjun, vice-mayor of Qingdao, said Tashkent and Qingdao have bright prospects for cooperation on logistics, trade, bilateral investment and people-to-people exchanges.

They expect Uzbekistan will use its geographical advantages in Central Asia and establish more stable and efficient logistics partnership networks, Liu said in a speech at the publicity activity in Tashkent.

He also expects more Uzbek companies, chambers of commerce and guilds to establish direct trade channels with the China-SCO demonstration area and promote regional trade.

After the historical Uzbek city of Samarkand had hosted a Meeting of the Council of Heads of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States in mid-September, Qingdao implemented initiatives of the meeting and organized a delegation to visit Uzbekistan.

The China-SCO demonstration area also held promotional activities in Moscow and in Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan between late October and early November.

8
member nations
Current membership of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

The area's development achievements were displayed at an opening-up achievements exhibition of the fifth China International Import Expo which kicked off on Nov 5 and ended on Nov 10 in Shanghai.

A miniature of Qingdao SCODA Pearl International Expo Center became a highlight in the exhibition area.

The center impressed a commercial counselor from Iran's embassy in China as it houses an area that specifically sells Iranian products and exhibits of the country's environment and customs.

The counselor said the center was definitely an important platform bridging the trade contacts of the two countries.

Zhang Xinzhu, secretary of the China-SCO demonstration area's Party working committee, said: "In the center, we offer cultural and economic display areas to every SCO member and build new comprehensive space for experiencing their cultures."

Wu Zhengping, director of the trade development bureau at the Ministry of Commerce, said the demonstration area has explored sea-land and cross-border transportation and guaranteed the stability of regional industrial and supply chains while promoting economic cooperation with countries and regions involved in the SCO and the Belt and Road Initiative.

BUSINESS

中国日報 CHINA DAILY | CHINADAILY.COM.CN/ Wednesday, November 16, 2022

RIGHT TRACK

Current quarter looking up

Steady growth seen in industrial production and investment in Oct

By **OUYANG SHIJIA**
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China's economy is expected to regain steam in the fourth quarter with the government's effective measures to coordinate COVID control and economic development along with stimulus policy measures gradually taking effect, economists and analysts said.

They said the recovery trend in industrial production will likely continue for the remainder of the year, and expect to see a gradual improvement in key economic indicators, including investment and consumption.

Their comments came after key economic data released by the National Bureau of Statistics on Tuesday showed China's economy has maintained a recovery trend in October, with steady growth in industrial production and investment, while consumption was still weak amid pressure from renewed COVID-19 outbreaks.

The NBS said China's value-added industrial output grew 5 percent in October from a year earlier after a 6.3 percent rise in September. And fixed-asset investment increased 5.8 percent in the January-October period, compared with a 5.9 percent rise in the first three quarters.

Fu Linghui, an NBS spokesman, said at a news conference on Tuesday that China's economy has sustained recovery momentum despite facing pressure from the increasingly complex and challenging global environment and frequent COVID-19 outbreaks at home.

Looking ahead, Fu said the economy will likely recover steadily with existing supportive policies taking effect gradually.

He said China's steady economic performance in 2022 has showcased the strong resilience of the economy, and growth will continue to recover in the future, supported by improved domestic demand.

When it comes to the latest economic data, Lou Feipeng, a senior economist at Postal Savings Bank of China, said new growth drivers have played a key role in boosting steady economic growth in October.

The NBS said value-added industrial output from high-tech manufacturing grew 10.6 percent year-on-year in October, 1.3 percentage points higher than that in the previous month. And investment in high-tech industries jumped 20.5 percent in the first 10 months.

Considering the government's effective measures to stabilize growth and the property market as well as its fine-tuned pandemic-prevention measures, Lou said the economy will likely regain steam in the fourth quarter with steady improvement in industrial production, consumption and real estate investment, and China still has room for fiscal and monetary policy support.

Zhou Maohua, an analyst at China Everbright Bank, attributed the steady growth in industrial production to continued recovery in domestic demand, a series of stimulus policies taking effect and resilience in foreign trade.

Zhou said the drop in retail sales is mainly due to renewed COVID-19 outbreaks, saying consumption will likely improve amid more precise COVID-19 containment and intensified efforts to expand domestic demand and stabilize growth.

The NBS said China's retail sales declined by 0.5 percent year-on-year in October, after the 2.5 percent year-on-year growth in September. Notably, China's online sales rose 4.9 percent year-on-year in the first 10 months.

Lu Ting, chief China economist at Nomura, warned of downward pressure from renewed domestic COVID cases, troubles in the property market and weaker global growth.

Despite headwinds, Louise Loo, senior economist at the Oxford Economics think tank, expects the pass-through of recent easing measures and authorities' data-dependent policy loosening in the coming months to support a tentative and bumpy recovery going forward.

"With domestic macro policy settings likely to remain loose as authorities increasingly look to stabilize the economy and the property sector, we expect activity indicators to bottom out and a tentative recovery to gather steam heading into 2023," Loo said.

An employee works on the production line of a textile company in Hai'an, Jiangsu province.
ZHAI HUIYONG / FOR CHINA DAILY

Positives boost overseas inflows into equities

By **ZHOU LANXU**
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$282 million
sum pledged by CalPERS to a Chinese venture capital fund manager in the third quarter

Several positives drove overseas inflows — more global investors — into China's A-share market on Tuesday, marking their rebound for the third session in a row, international investment banks and asset managers said.

Brightening prospects of the country's economic growth, reasonable stock valuations and the mitigation of uncertainties at home and abroad that bolstered investor sentiment are key factors behind the inflows, they said.

Northbound trading of the stock connect programs between the bourses on the Chinese mainland and in Hong Kong saw net capital worth 8.15 billion yuan ($1.16 billion) flow into A shares on Tuesday, marking the first time in almost a year that daily net inflow topped 8 billion yuan for three consecutive sessions.

Net inflows this month reached 34.16 billion yuan, reversing a net outflow of 28.08 billion yuan in the past three months. So far this year, a net total of 29.07 billion yuan has flowed into A shares via northbound trading, market tracker Wind Info said.

Accompanying the rebound in foreign inflows was a market rally beating many overseas peers. The CSI 300 Index — which tracks 300 shares traded in Shanghai and Shenzhen — increased by 10.18 percent so far this month to close at 3865.97 points on Tuesday, outperforming the S&P 500's 2.2 percent gain in the United States during the same period.

On Tuesday, the benchmark Shanghai Composite Index climbed by 1.64 percent to close at 3134.08 points, the first time the index ended above 3100 points since late September, with semiconductor makers and brokerages among the biggest gainers.

The ChiNext Index, which tracks China's Nasdaq-style board of growth enterprises, surged by 2.38 percent to close at 2431.73 points.

Experts attributed the recent rally to domestic factors, including the optimization of COVID-19 containment measures and ramped-up support for the real estate sector and the alleviation of external risks, including expectations that US monetary tightening might slow down.

Michael Lai, a portfolio manager at Franklin Templeton, said multiple factors conducive to a recovery in China's stock market have converged, as the country's macroeconomic policy might ease further while global geopolitical tensions have somewhat moderated.

Also in a sign that global investors are increasing exposure to Chinese equities, a US pension fund raised investments in Chinese financial assets, China Securities Journal said in a report on Tuesday.

The California Public Employees' Retirement System or CalPERS — which manages local pension and health benefits — pledged a total of $282 million to a large Chinese venture capital fund manager in the third quarter, the report said.

Meng Lei, China equities strategist at UBS Securities, said the A-share market may have already hit a trough as downward pressure on valuations has been "overdone" this year while earnings of A-share companies could recover gradually in the near future.

Supportive policies and earnings growth are expected to gradually boost market confidence, Meng said, adding that the CSI 300 Index is trading around lows seen in 2016 and 2018 but current earnings performance fares better.

The price-to-earnings ratio of the CSI 300 Index stood at 11.17 as of Tuesday, compared with the 10-year average of 12.32, according to Wind Info.

Briefly

Yuan strengthens against greenback

The central parity rate of the Chinese currency renminbi, or the yuan, strengthened 478 pips to 7.0421 against the US dollar on Tuesday, said the China Foreign Exchange Trade System. In China's spot foreign exchange market, the yuan is allowed to rise or fall by 2 percent from the central parity rate each trading day.

Installed power battery capacity rising

China's installed capacity of power batteries registered rapid growth in October amid the boom in the country's new energy vehicle market, industry data showed. Last month, installed capacity of power batteries for NEVs rose 98.1 percent year-on-year to 30.5 gigawatt-hours, said the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers. About 10.8 GWh of lithium iron phosphate batteries were installed in NEVs, up 35.4 percent from a year earlier, accounting for 55.2 percent of the monthly total.

Insurance market nearly quadruples

China's insurance market posted remarkable changes in terms of size and structure in the past 10 years, said the country's top insurance regulator. The country's insurance capital rose from 6.27 trillion yuan ($872 billion) in 2012 to 24.71 trillion yuan at the end of June 2022, with an average annual growth rate of 15.6 percent, said the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission.

XINHUA - CHINA DAILY

6G push picks up speed with focus on innovation

By **MA SI**
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China is tapping the world's researchers and scholars to help advance technologies that could prove critical to the development of 6G, the next frontier in wireless technology, officials and experts said on Tuesday.

While there is still no universally accepted definition of 6G, the technology is expected to have far lower latency, higher speeds and more bandwidth than 5G.

6G could support the integration of space, air, territorial and maritime communication technologies, and is expected to be in commercial use around 2030, specialists said at the 2022 Global 6G Conference in Shanghai.

Zhang Yunming, vice-minister of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, the nation's top industry regulator, said 6G will bring more advanced experience than 5G, and more originality and innovation are needed as the base for in-depth research on the wireless technology.

More efforts are also needed to research new theories, propose new algorithms, form 6G technical solutions and continuously optimize technical performance through experimental verification, laying the foundation for 6G industrialization, Zhang said.

On Tuesday, the IMT-2030 (6G) Promotion Group, the flagship platform in China that promotes 6G R&D and international cooperation, started collecting potential crucial technologies for 6G development from researchers and scholars around the world.

Yi Zhiling, chief scientist of the China Mobile Research Institute, said the next three to five years will provide a window on crucial 6G technologies and lay a solid foundation for the industry.

In the past, Chinese companies had worked with international organizations to establish standards for 3G, 4G and 5G technologies. They should increase their partnerships and cooperation with their foreign counterparts "to promote the formation of globally unified 6G standards", Yi said.

China Mobile, a major telecom company in China, unveiled its overall architecture design for 6G in June as it is stepping up its research and development of the next-generation wireless technology.

The white paper on China Mobile 6G network architecture is the first such systematic architecture design in the telecom industry, the company said.

Wen Ku, secretary-general of the China Communications Standards Association, said the European Union, the United States, Japan, South Korea and other countries and regions have all initiated research on 6G.

It is important to balance the use of 5G and R&D of 6G, as long-term strategies are needed to develop both technologies. "Advancing the use of 5G is like building a good bridge and road for 6G," Wen said.

China had more than 2.2 million 5G base stations nationwide by the end of September, accounting for more than 60 percent of 5G base stations worldwide, MIIT data showed.

China has made progress in stepping up global cooperation on 6G. In June, the IMT-2030 (6G) Promotion Group inked an agreement on 6G with the 6G Smart Networks and Services Industry Association (6G-IA), which is the voice of European industry and research on next-generation networks and services.

Wuling's new energy vehicles big draw during G20

By **LI FUSHENG** in Beijing and **SHI RUIPENG** in Nanning

A total of 300 Wuling electric vehicles are busy plying the streets of Bali, Indonesia, serving as official shuttle vehicles for the G20 Summit between the airport, hotels and other venues.

Its four-seater Air evs are expected to save carbon emissions totaling 33 tons compared with gasoline-powered vehicles during their 12-day service period during the event, said their maker SGMW.

SGMW is a joint venture based in Liuzhou, South China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, and set up by China's SAIC Motor, General Motors and Liuzhou Wuling Motors.

"Our appearance at the G20 Summit shows that Chinese brands have the ability to compete in the global new energy vehicle market," said Han Dehong, vice-president of SGMW's operations in Indonesia.

Other electric vehicles used during the summit are from South Korea's Hyundai and Japan's top automaker Toyota.

The Wuling Air evs were made by SGMW at its Bekasi production base in the Indonesian province of West Java. The model hit the local market in August as SGMW's first electric model to be sold overseas.

The automaker said it has received over 5,000 orders for the model, which is the most popular new energy vehicle in Indonesia.

Indonesia, as the largest vehicle market in Southeast Asia, expects the share of electric motorbikes and electric cars made in the country to reach 20 percent of total car production by 2025.

Indonesia is setting a 2025 deadline for all state-owned companies to use only electric vehicles as part of its goal of reaching net zero emissions by 2060, according to Bloomberg.

Han said the company will attract more Chinese suppliers to set up plants in Indonesia to beef up the local NEV industry.

SGMW's Bekasi base, with a total investment of $1 billion, started production in 2017, providing around 100,000 job opportunities for the locals.

Covering an area of 60 hectares, the base has now been developed into an auto industrial park, which involves a complete auto industrial chain.

After years of operations, Wuling has become one of the most popular Chinese auto brands in Indonesia, Han said.

According to SGMW, its sales in Indonesia reached 11,261 units in the first half, up 3 percent year-on-year.

SGMW said it will continue to expand its sales network in Indonesia and will export the electric Air ev model to other countries in the region.

The automaker said it is making every effort to advance its overseas activities, bring high-quality new energy vehicles and services to global car owners and demonstrate the high-tech capabilities of Chinese manufacturing.

As one of the most popular electric vehicle makers in China, SGMW has sold over 1 million new energy vehicles since it started to explore the segment in 2017. It is one of the fastest time frames for a brand to achieve such a milestone in the global NEV industry.

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Wuling electric vehicles seen on a street in Bali, Indonesia.
XU QIN / XINHUA

BUSINESS

Govt's role in financial inclusion seen as key

Experts call for 'down-to-earth' efforts to improve domestic system

By JIANG XUEQING
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China should support all market players striving to improve financial inclusion to explore more cooperation models, which follow laws and regulatory compliance, put risks under control and promote commercial sustainability, in the fields of business, technology, data and infrastructure through methods like regulatory sandboxes and the implementation of pilot programs in local areas, experts said.

Financial inclusion means that individuals and businesses have access to useful and affordable financial products and services that meet their needs and are delivered responsibly and sustainably, according to the World Bank.

After years of development, China's financial inclusion system has shown features like diversified market entities, high correlation and deep integration. Market participants have expanded from small loan companies to a diversified organizational system in which traditional financial institutions and emerging market entities engage in healthy competition and cooperation, said Shan Qiang, Party secretary of the National Internet Finance Association of China.

In the next step, the country should give scope to the initiative and creativity of all market participants in this field and support them in building a more sound and balanced financial inclusion ecosystem, Shan said at the International Forum for China Financial Inclusion 2022 in Beijing recently.

It is also necessary for the country to strengthen the conduct regulation of market participants, improve financial inclusion market transparency and enhance consumer protection through measures like information disclosures, risk alerts and ethical reviews, he said.

Wu Xiaoqiu, co-chairman of the council board of the Chinese Academy of Financial Inclusion at the Renmin University of China and former vice-president of the university, said financial inclusion is among a number of indicators for China's financial modernization, which is a basic element of Chinese modernization.

A financial system ignoring the needs of micro and small enterprises as well as low and middle-income earners' demand for wealth management services can hardly be regarded as modernized finance, Wu said.

China must go ahead in a down-to-earth manner with effective quality improvement and a reasonable increase in quantity in terms of financial inclusion, according to the overall requirements in the country's pursuit of high-quality development, said Liu Feng, secretary-general of the China Banking Association.

With the acceleration of the country's industrialization, urbanization and agricultural modernization in recent years, hundreds of millions of people have moved from rural areas to towns and cities. They have become new urban residents — people who live in a city permanently but have not yet obtained a local *hukou*, an official document certifying that the holder is a legal resident of a particular area, or those who obtained a local *hukou* within the past three years.

Currently, there are around 300 million new urban residents on the Chinese mainland, accounting for more than 20 percent of the mainland's population.

Strengthening financial services for new urban residents has practical significance regarding maintaining stable economic performance and promoting growth. It has become a focus of the banking sector to consolidate and further improve the effects of financial inclusion. During the process of integrating into city life, new urban residents will have robust and diversified demand for financial services, which will provide tremendous opportunities for banking institutions to develop new business, Liu said.

Experts and officials also stressed the importance of promoting the high-quality development of financial inclusion to help small businesses build up resilience to weather hard times.

Lin Jingping, deputy director of the financial work office of the Taizhou municipal government, said in order to reduce the level of information asymmetry between banks and small businesses, a credit information-sharing platform was established in Taizhou, Zhejiang province, gathering 433 million pieces of credit information of more than 790,000 market entities from over 30 government departments and providing the information to banks for free.

The platform has enabled banks to offer loans to small businesses in a more targeted way, Lin said.

As of the end of the third quarter, the balance of loans to micro and small enterprises that have a total credit line of up to 10 million yuan ($1.42 million) per borrower reached 23.16 trillion yuan in China, up 24.6 percent year-on-year, according to the People's Bank of China, the central bank.

Better growth track

Builders from China Railway No 4 Engineering Group Co Ltd work on a fast transport project in Wuhu, Anhui province, on Sunday. The project aims to help the city better integrate into the Yangtze River Economic Belt. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Report: Digitalization gathers pace in China

By FAN FEIFEI
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Chinese companies have been making steady progress in digital transformation over the past five years, with 17 percent making decisive investments in adopting and scaling digital technologies to drive continuous business transformation this year, compared to just 7 percent in 2018, said a report from global consultancy Accenture.

The report said nearly 60 percent of surveyed business executives said they would increase their spending in the field of digitalization in the following one to two years, but they would do so more pragmatically and prudently by paying attention to the immediate financial returns of digital projects.

It found that 17 percent of the interviewed companies can be designated as "Digital Transformation Champions", which have generated more than half of their revenue from new areas of business in the past three years, up from 16 percent of companies in that category in the previous year.

The overall pace of enterprise digital transformation in China in 2022 has eased amid a more complex business landscape, it added.

"Over the past five years, Chinese companies have been successfully using digital technologies to raise competitiveness and create value in new ways," said Samantha Zhu, chairperson of Accenture Greater China.

"In the current environment, as companies manage internal and external challenges including market volatility and supply chain disruptions, maintaining productivity while also upskilling their workforce is key, and it is critical that they continue to invest in digital technologies to strengthen their core competitiveness and drive continuous innovation," Zhu said.

She said the technology-intensive industries represented by electronics and engineering machinery have taken the lead in digitalization and invested heavily in digital technologies, Zhu said, adding digital transformation is also accelerating in the retail, logistics, healthcare and life science segments.

Sustainable, purpose-led, high-quality growth companies and the continued modernization of industries are the key to China's future economic development, she said, adding companies should continue to invest in digital transformation in the face of difficulties and challenges.

China will bolster in-depth integration of digital technologies with the real economy and speed up the digital transformation of industries, according to the digital economy development plan for the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-25).

The scale of China's digital economy reached $7.1 trillion last year, the world's second-largest, said a white paper released by the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology, a government think tank.

Li Wei, deputy head of cloud computing and big data research at the academy, said the digitalization of enterprises serves as the cornerstone of the digital economy.

Enterprises should speed up the pace of digital transformation, concentrate on consumer requirements, integrate online and offline channels, as well as promote the digital transformation and upgrade of industries, Li said.

Inventive spirit transforms Shenzhen into powerhouse

By YUAN SHENGGAO

The 2022 China Hi-Tech Fair in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, set to run from Tuesday to Saturday, will provide the world with a window to see what a crucial role innovation has played in the host city's from-rags-to-riches story.

With a GDP comparable to Austria — 3.07 trillion yuan ($422 billion) — and a per capita GDP of $24,355, Shenzhen, which used to be a small town to the north of Hong Kong in the late 1970s, has one of the largest city economies in China.

The city itself is a product of innovation and it is continuing to create such miracles. Although it covers only 1,997 square kilometers, smaller than many counties in the country, Shenzhen has set itself a broad stage by seeking infinity in innovation.

It is fair to say innovation has always been the driving force of Shenzhen's development and a core part of the city's "soft power". It has one of the best innovation and business atmospheres in the country. To make changes might be the only fixed thing in Shenzhen, where innovation is in the city's genes and the residents' blood.

Their efforts have paid off. In 2021, the added value of the city's high-tech industry accounted for 37.13 percent of its GDP. In the first half of this year, 20 clusters of seven strategic emerging industries in the city achieved an added value of 627.164 billion yuan, accounting for 41.8 percent of GDP, up 7.2 percent year-on-year.

A long-term commitment to and accumulation of scientific and technological innovation have helped Shenzhen overcome the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical tensions that have hit the growth of many cities around the world.

That concentration of innovation and production factors, ranging from technology and talents to investment and labor force, in the city should be largely attributed to the tremendous support it gives to promoting innovation, the thoughtful services it provides to talents and enterprises and the down-to-earth work style and the high efficiency and responsiveness of the government.

These qualities have defined a Shenzhen that values talent, fair play, rule of law, hard work and achieving dreams. It is the only city in South China where Mandarin Chinese is widely used rather than the local dialect, for instance Cantonese, which speaks volumes of its openness and inclusiveness.

Shenzhen's innovation-driven development has also won it recognition and great support from central authorities. The city has now built six national key laboratories and more than 3,200 innovation platforms and enterprises.

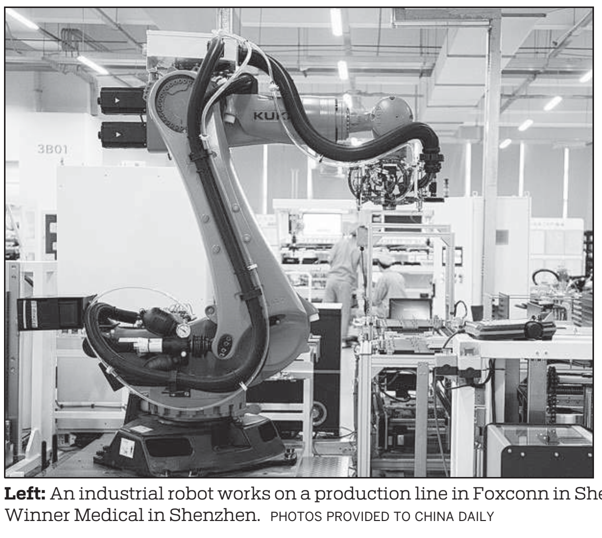
At present, among the city's 17 million permanent residents, 6 million are talents in various fields. As the most dynamic and creative group of the hungry-for-success city, they do not believe in so-called comfort zones. Although Shenzhen might have many meanings to them, it is in essence a place to realize their dreams.

Besides, with more than 30 percent of its input in innovation being spent on basic research, Shenzhen has demonstrated the foresight and ambition that what it wants is by no means immediate profit but long-term gain from high-quality sustainable development driven by innovation.

By continuously deepening the reform of scientific and technological systems and mechanisms and improving its business environment, Shenzhen has accelerated the formation of a whole-process innovation ecological chain. It consists of basic research, technology research, industrialization of achievements, technology finance and talent support. This is proving to be a virtuous circle where all stakeholders can work together for the same purpose of prompting breakthroughs in science and technology.

The construction of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, a key national development program, created historic opportunities for Shenzhen. It can make a better use of regional resources, particularly those from Hong Kong, in the process of advancing Shenzhen-Hong Kong integrated development which stresses the docking of institutions and exchanges of talents, funds and businesses.

Over the next five years, Shenzhen aims to raise its GDP to above 4 trillion yuan. The added value of its strategic emerging industries should exceed 1.5 trillion yuan with an improved core competitiveness of its modern industrial system. To that end, the city is expected to continue to do all it can to magnetize innovation resources from around the world and building itself into a global destination for talents, funds and businesses.



Left: An industrial robot works on a production line in Foxconn in Shenzhen. **Right:** Employees produce facial masks in a workshop of Winner Medical in Shenzhen. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Shenzhen Data Exchange opens on Tuesday during the 24th China Hi-Tech Fair. CHEN WEN / FOR CHINA DAILY

City opens CHTF with aim to spur innovation

By CHEN HONG
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The 24th China Hi-Tech Fair, one of the country's most influential technology shows, opened on Tuesday in Shenzhen, marking an effort of the South China metropolis to support the development of its innovation industry.

"Innovation is Shenzhen's most distinct feature, the most attractive area of the city and serves as the most powerful engine," said Meng Fanli, Party Secretary of Shenzhen, in the opening ceremony.

The fair has been jointly sponsored by seven ministries, two top academies of China and the city government of Shenzhen since 1999. Covering a record exhibition area of nearly 400,000 square meters, the 2022 edition has attracted more than 5,000 exhibitors from nearly 40 countries and regions to display cutting-edge technologies over the next four days.

The fair has nurtured many startups to grow into industrial leaders, such as Tencent, BYD and Han's Laser, over the past two decades.

The sponsors — in the fields of commerce, science and technology, industry and information, reform, agriculture and intellectual properties — have organized the most diverse new technologies and products to the fair.

They fall into a wide range of categories, including biomedicine, modern agriculture, aerospace, telecommunications, blockchain, big data and artificial intelligence.

Several forums will be staged during the fair to inspire new ideas, which will be attended by government officials, international organizations' leaders, top scientists, renowned entrepreneurs and investors. Themes such as metaverse, emerging technologies that could change the world, innovation and life science will be discussed in these forums.

Shenzhen continues to increase its innovation capabilities by improving facilities, raising input and valuing its resident talents. According to the city government, the research and development investments from all entities in Shenzhen accounted for 5.46 percent of its GDP.

The local government is planning a group of innovation platforms, including a State-level science center, national key laboratories and regional technological hubs. Some of these have been put into operation and generated a pool of scientific achievements.

Starting from November, the 8th of every month will be defined "Venture Capital Day". The effort aims to match up VC institutes with high-tech projects in the hope of making the city the best destination for innovation and investment.

This section is sponsored by the Shenzhen city government.

BUSINESSFOCUS

Digital healthcare nurtures innovation

Trends emerge in areas such as surgery, treatment of chronic illnesses

By ZHENG YIRAN
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After years of development, China's digital healthcare sector is embracing new types of high-quality innovation, with many new trends emerging.

Digital healthcare — medical services provided with the help of digital technologies — includes remote consultations, internet hospitals and smart healthcare.

During the just-concluded 2022 World Internet Conference Wuzhen Summit in Wuzhen, East China's Zhejiang province, digital healthcare company WeDoctor, based in Hangzhou, Zhejiang, also showcased its latest achievements.

In 2015, just before the opening of the second WIC, WeDoctor launched China's first internet hospital — Wuzhen Internet Hospital — in Tongxiang, Zhejiang. The hospital provided online follow-up visits, digital healthcare record sharing and online diagnoses and prescriptions on a large scale, the company said.

By September, the company had offered digital healthcare services through the partnership with nearly 8,000 brick-and-mortar hospitals nationwide. There were 300,000 registered doctors on the platform and 33 internet hospitals, among which 19 had worked out ways for patients to be covered for their services with public medical insurance.

"In the past 10 years, China's medical reform has achieved great breakthroughs, and digital healthcare is a key factor in that. China's new medical reforms, which emphasize digitalization, offer an example to the rest of the world," said Liao Jieyuan, founder, chairman and CEO of WeDoctor.

The company also started a healthcare maintenance organization (HMO) in Tianjin in 2020. The organization serves as a cloud platform that gathers information from 266 grassroots-level hospitals in the city. The HMO performs digital, intensive and standardized management of the healthcare information of patients, especially patients with chronic illnesses, WeDoctor officials said.

By September, 76.68 percent of diabetes patients participating in WeDoctor's chronic disease management were following the platform's standardized management process. The rate of controlled blood glucose of those who participated in chronic disease management for three months was 13.5 percent higher than those who did not participate, company officials said.

"Digital technologies offer us great means for chronic disease management, which requires constant efforts inside and outside the hospital," said Ji Linong, head of the endocrinology department at the People's Hospital of Peking University.

Kang Lei, in charge of diabetes treatment at Sanofi Greater China, said: "The emergence of digital healthcare offers new answers for chronic disease treatment. China's healthcare industry has shifted from the basic model of people seeking medical treatment in hospitals to a model that offers multiple healthcare services in various scenarios." The company is a unit of Sanofi SA, an international healthcare company based in Paris.

"It is expected that with the help of digital healthcare, medical resources across the country will be more balanced, and China's overall medical service level will be raised," Kang said.

Beijing Anzhen Hospital of Capital Medical University demonstrated a surgery information collection robot at its booth at the 2022 China International Fair for Trade in Services held in Beijing in September.

The robot can track and record surgical images in real time, compile information and broadcast it remotely through a 5G network. At the same time, it can also connect with medical equipment in the operating room and capture images in real time. Now in use at Beijing Anzhen Hospital, it is expected to be applied widely in the country.

Above: Healthcare professionals work at the Chronic Disease Management Center of digital healthcare company WeDoctor's grassroots-level healthcare maintenance organization in Tianjin in August 2021.
Left: A licensed pharmacist (right) instructs a patient in choosing drugs at one of 111 Inc's offline pharmacies in Guangzhou, Guangdong province, in November.
PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

> Digital healthcare is serving as a critical supplement to the public healthcare system, helping local areas take measures in epidemic prevention and control."
>
> **Chen Jia,** independent researcher of international strategies

The digital healthcare sector has constantly been expanding. In 2021, China's digital healthcare market surged 79.5 percent on a yearly basis to 28.9 billion yuan ($4.1 billion), according to a recent report from market research company AskCI Consulting. The market is forecast to grow to 43.6 billion yuan by the end of this year.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, more users have tended to seek medical services online. In 2021, China's registered users of digital healthcare platforms grew 6.95 percent year-on-year to 707 million, and the number is forecast to reach 810 million by the end of this year, according to AskCI Consulting.

"Ever since the pandemic broke out, residents' habits in terms of hospital visits have constantly been changing," the consulting company's report said. "The volume of internet users has been rapidly growing, and platforms such as internet hospitals, healthcare management sites and e-commerce pharmacies have seen very rapid development. Internet hospitals accounted for 47.9 percent of platforms."

By June, there were over 1,700 internet hospitals in China, according to the 2022 Survey on China's Internet Hospitals released by online healthcare service provider VBData.cn. Shandong, Guangdong and Jiangsu provinces have the greatest number of internet hospitals. More public as well as private medical facilities are used for setting up internet hospitals.

The government also has frequently released policies to support the sector. Between 2018 and 2022, China issued 88 policies on internet hospitals, mainly focused on standardizing the price of digital healthcare and promoting public healthcare insurance settlements for online medical services.

In May, the National Medical Products Administration issued a guideline for online drug regulation during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-25). It offered specific plans to promote the digital and intelligent transformation of the pharmaceutical industry, and to encourage the comprehensive digital transformation of the country's healthcare system.

In August, the State Administration for Market Regulation issued provisions for the supervision and management of retail online medications, further clarifying the legality of online drug sales and raising standards for the rapidly developing industry. The provisions will take effect on Dec 1.

"To ensure residents' drug safety to the greatest extent, the provisions encourage and assist e-commerce pharmacies in continuing to offer convenience to the public," said Liu Tong, senior vice-president of government relations at Nasdaq-listed online pharmacy 111 Inc. "While the provisions raised compliance requirements for enterprises, they boost the long-term, sustainable development of the industry."

Chen Jia, an independent researcher of international strategies, said: "When the pandemic broke out, the habit of seeing a doctor online became engrained in residents' lives. Digital healthcare is serving as a critical supplement to the public healthcare system, helping local areas take measures in epidemic prevention and control.

"Digital healthcare has changed Chinese patients' habits. Previously, patients waited in line at hospitals to make a doctor's appointment. Now, they can make appointments online in advance. Also, patients' healthcare records are stored online. Their user experience has been greatly improved."

"Looking ahead, to promote the high-quality development of digital healthcare, enterprises should explore niche fields. In addition, digital technologies such as 5G, big data and artificial intelligence should be further applied in the healthcare system, so as to play a bigger role in digital healthcare," said Yuan Shuai, deputy secretary-general of the Rural Revitalization Committee.

Insomniacs awaken to new ways to find sleep

By ZHENG YIRAN

Digital therapy is creating new treatment options for health issues such as insomnia, a malady that is on the rise. With that, businesses are opening their eyes to new opportunities.

Digital therapy, including cognitive behavioral therapy and sound and light stimulation, is designed to help people get better sleep. Cognitive behavioral therapy challenges negative thought patterns to alter unwanted behavioral patterns.

Data from the Chinese Clinical Trial Registry showed that between January and August, 17 clinical tests related to digital therapy for sleep disorders were registered. The number exceeded 14 registered for all of 2021 and 15 registered in 2020.

"Thanks to the surging sleep demand in China, a growing number of digital therapy enterprises have started to step into the sleep disorder sector, and use their products in clinical settings," said Chen Peng, an analyst at VBData.cn, a Chongqing-based healthcare service platform.

Nearly 75 percent of survey respondents indicated they have sleep problems once or twice a week, according to the 2022 White Paper on Healthy Sleep among Chinese, released by the Chinese Sleep Research Society. "Finding it difficult to fall asleep" was the most common issue cited, with 30 percent of the respondents citing the problem.

Last year, a report from market consultancy iMedia Research showed that between 2016 and 2020, China's sleep economy rose from 261.6 billion yuan ($36.8 billion) to 377.9 billion yuan. It is forecast that the market will surpass 1 trillion yuan by 2030.

Business opportunities have become more plentiful for sleep-related enterprises. In June, DeRucci Healthy Sleep Co, which makes products including the T10 AI mattress and is based in Dongguan, Guangdong province, became listed on the Shenzhen Stock Exchange. In August, 8HSleep, based in Chengdu, Sichuan province, a company that markets sleep-related products, was also listed on the exchange.

The stock prices of both companies soared on the first day of their listing. DeRucci rose 44 percent within an hour and hit its daily limit; 8HSleep surged 217 percent on the day of its listing, triggering two temporary stops, and closed up 171 percent at day's end.

Lin Junchao, co-founder of sleep-related digital therapy provider Sumian — a company based in Shenzhen, Guangdong province — said: "With the country's economic development, people are increasingly aware of the importance of sleep, and they are willing to spend more money and time to improve their sleep."

"Specifically, people have learned that some sleeping disorders cannot be resolved by simply changing their bedding or improving the environment. This is when they turn to digital therapy," he said.

Another digital therapy provider Slanhealth in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, developed a mini program named Softsleep. The mini program is available only on Huawei's smart wristwatch.

The wristwatch collects and analyzes user sleep data, and uploads the data to the mini program. With user permission, the mini program works out personalized, digital and scientific ways for users to improve their sleep.

Sumian joined the Shenzhen Institute of Advanced Technology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences to set up a lab on digital therapy and brain science. The lab worked out a magnetic pulse therapy system in which a pulse field generates, amplifies and modulates electrical signals.

Through energy conversion devices, the system can generate a magnetic pulse of a specific pattern that is designed to stimulate the release of sleep-related hormones, producing sedative and soothing effects, the company said.

Lin said the fast growth of sleep-related products is expected to greatly increase competition. Plus, with consumers becoming more discerning, products based on medical research will sell better and start to dominate the market.

"This will quickly earn the trust of patients, widen the products' distance from other nonmedical products, and help patients make purchasing decisions," he said.

Li Wenyu, CEO of Shanghai-based digital therapy company Sdodt, said: "Products that target sleeping disorders should be based on medical science, as the solutions to sleeping disorders are scientific and precise. We should not encourage products with false and exaggerated claims but instead boost the healthy development of the industry."

Chen from VBData.cn said: "With the introduction of digital therapy, sleeping disorder treatment has changed from a time of trial and error to an era that is personalized, digitalized and refined. Vast business opportunities lie ahead."

Visitors check out sleep-related products during the 50th China International Furniture Fair in Shanghai in September.
PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

YOUTH

Chorus of approval for song contest

New talent in the spotlight as TV show provides stage for inspirational performances, **Li Yingxue** reports.

Liang Yuying (left), champion of this year's *Sing! China*, performs with her coach, Hong Kong singer Hacken Lee, in the final stage of the singing competition. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Liang Yuying, 26, has never sung in front of her family. Singing since childhood, she became a bar performer after graduation from her singing major, but never once did she pluck up the courage and sing in front of her loved ones.

That situation changed in the most dramatic fashion. The final stage of this year's edition of *Sing! China*, which aired at the end of October on Zhejiang Satellite TV, saw Liang's mother and younger brother not only hear her beautiful singing for the first time but also witness Liang winning the event.

"They were smiling at me, and I could tell that they felt proud," Liang recalls.

Sing! China is a singing competition which aims to find new talent, whether professional or amateur. It's a rebranded version of *The Voice of China*, a show that premiered in 2012, and was based on *The Voice of Holland*.

This season of the show was immensely popular on the internet, and accumulated views of related topics reached 22.74 billion. The songs performed in the show were ranked on different online music charts more than 1,600 times.

In the final, Liang touched the judges with her heart-stopping performance of the song *Piao Xue*, or "drifting snow", showing her superb singing skills with each word being powerful and each breath precise.

Her coach, Hong Kong singer Hacken Lee, was thrilled at Liang's triumph, which was announced by the episode's guest star Andy Lau. Lee gave her a thumbs-up before jumping onto the stage to give the new champion a warm, congratulatory hug.

"Lee is a kind person who is particularly rigorous about music," Liang says. "He cares about me, both in regard to my music and my life. He is also good at finding my strengths and helping me to bring out my best."

Born in Guiping, Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, Liang won the "campus top 10 singers" competition when she was studying at Jiujiang senior middle school in Foshan, Guangdong province. In 2019, she started singing in a bar in Chongqing after graduation from Guangxi Arts University, where she majored in pop music performance.

This year is not the first time that Liang has taken part in the show. In 2019, Liang signed up but didn't make it to the final selection round. "I have been continuously improving my singing since that elimination," Liang explains.

Even though her last two demo tapes, submitted in 2020 and last year, were not selected by the directing team, she never gave up. This summer, she finally made it to the ultimate stage.

Her stunning debut in the blind audition phase gained her votes from all four coaches, becoming one of only two performers to win that honor, the other being Cai Ziyi who was runner-up in the final.

During the competition, Liang dealt with setbacks, including the catastrophic loss of her voice before one round due to a cold. However, she never thought of withdrawing, and Lee always encouraged her, boosting her confidence.

"He would ask my interpretation of the song first, and then tell me to draw the audience into my story by the second line of the song," she says.

Liang says that participating in the show has brought great changes to her life, including the development of a more disciplined lifestyle and a more resilient mentality.

"I feel more relaxed when facing different stages and audiences," she says.

As a witness to her growth throughout the competition, Jin Lei, general director of the show, was moved by Liang's performance in the final.

"At the blind audition stage, she was a girl who was good at singing, while in the final, she had become a strong singer. The sincerity in her final performance was quite moving," Jin says.

Jin is also impressed by Lee's ability to sing and his willingness to help his contestants, including Liang. "He would stay hours in the recording studio to adjust the singing of every single word," Jin says.

Four coaches critiquing the singers' performances and guiding their teams of selected singers is a particular highlight of the show.

Three singing coaches from the previous season, Li Ronghao, Lee from Hong Kong and Liao Changyong, are still coaching together with a new addition to the show, Malaysian singer Fish Leong. Hong Kong pop singer Coco Lee took the baton from Liao in the middle of the competition due to Liao's heavy workload as the president of the Shanghai Conservatory of Music.

Jin says that this year's coaching team was a diverse one, and that each coach has their own specialty in Chinese music.

According to Jin, Liao, a renowned baritone with his academic background in vocal music, has his own understanding of each voice, and he uses his unique system of singing to teach his team.

Contemporary expression

"We value the contemporary nature of the coaches. They should still be active in the process of creating new songs," Jin says. "Another important aspect we value is that they are willing to help the younger generation by sharing their experience and knowledge with the contestants."

Even though the coaches only had four months with the performers, Jin says the whole production team was pleased to see their huge improvement. "That's why we used to host our final at the Bird's Nest or the Shanghai Stadium, as we want the contestants to perform with tens of thousands in the audience," he says.

Two youth coaches, Xilinnayi Gao and Huang Xiaoyun, both 24, who participated in previous seasons and are now established pop singers, also returned to the show. They have a chance to "save" an artist they like who has failed to sway the coaches.

According to Jin, 95 percent of this season's contestants were born after 1995. "People of the younger generation have their own aesthetics, concepts, attitudes and values, and the youth coaches can be closer to understanding their mindset, as well as being able to offer advice and even contradict the four coaches," he says.

Jin has a team of around 30 producers and directors who seek out musical talent from all over the country, whether they come from professional academies or are prominent on social platforms. They follow the growth in potential of the performers and invite them to join the show when they think they are ready.

"We encourage the performers to bring their own characteristics to the stage for selection by the coaches, even though they are not perfect," Jin says.

For Jin, each new season is like a new show to him. "Each year, the young contestants are different, and the coaches have different attitudes to music, and we will make some slight changes to the competition, without disrupting its core values," he says, explaining that the immutable feature for the show is the blind audition that is fair to all performers.

As the audience can have access to all of the world's best and most popular songs through the internet, the variety of music styles is bringing freshness to the show.

In Jin's mind, the show can continue as long as it can be a spiritual home for young people.

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2022 World Ocean Week to wrap up string of fruitful meetings and forums

By **YUAN SHENGGAO**

Clockwise from top left: James George, deputy resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme in China, addresses the opening ceremony of the 2022 World Ocean Week in Xiamen via video link. An array of yachts on display at the China (Xiamen) International Boat Show during the World Ocean Week. Contestants in the Xiamen leg of the National Family Sailing Race during the week. Experts share insights into high-quality development of emerging marine sectors during the week. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

The main activities of the 2022 World Ocean Week in Xiamen conclude on Wednesday in the coastal city in East China's Fujian province, with organizers having staged 40 events including forums, exhibitions and ocean culture carnivals.

Representatives of 16 international organizations and nearly 800 companies have participated in the activities to discuss approaches to advancing high-quality ocean development.

Those include the 2022 China Seafood Summit which opens on Wednesday, and the fifth International Diving Salvage and Marine Engineering Equipment Exhibition, which is to kick off on Friday. They are expected to help Xiamen's marine industry attract investors' attention, officials said.

Li Junhua, United Nations under-secretary-general for economic and social affairs, praised the host city's achievements in coastal pollution control at the ocean week's opening ceremony and the Xiamen International Ocean Forum.

"Ocean sits at the nexus of addressing the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss … Ocean also holds the key to bringing sustainability and prosperity together," he said.

"Offshore renewable energy, green shipping, marine aquaculture and other sustainable blue economy sectors offer immense opportunities for economic growth and employment, while making net-zero carbon and resilient economies possible.

"In this connection, I wish to commend Xiamen for its achievement in transforming polluted waterfront into a model for ecological and economic success, through cycles of integrated coastal management," Li said.

Athill Dean Jonas, minister of social transformation, human resource development and the blue economy of Antigua and Barbuda, said the World Ocean Week in Xiamen is a platform for connecting global ocean policies, technologies, decision-making and actions.

It provides a great venue for international cooperation and dialogue for governments of coastal cities, marine scientists, international organizations, intergovernmental organizations, and maritime businesses and institutions from across the globe, he noted.

One of the key activities of this year's ocean week, the Xiamen Summit on the Innovative Development of Emerging Marine Industries, was held on Nov 9.

With the theme of "New Blue Engine Driving the High-Quality Development of Emerging Marine Industries", the summit was graced by the presence of nearly 200 officials, prominent experts and business leaders in the marine sector.

They shared the latest research results and practices in the innovative development of emerging marine industries, exchanged views on the development and transformation of the aquacultural seed industry, the exploration of marine life resources, research on marine equipment, smart ocean and innovation in marine science and technology.

The forum is the first of its kind in the history of the World Ocean Week in Xiamen, and represents an innovation and upgrade of the event, said an official with the Xiamen bureau of ocean development, one of the organizers of the forum.

The event is set to accelerate and upgrade the development of emerging marine industries, support the formation of industrial chains and ecosystems in the field of marine science and technology and help turn Xiamen into a world leader in marine sci-tech industries, said the official.

Pan Delu, an academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering and a researcher with the Second Institute of Oceanography at the Ministry of Natural Resources, said at the forum that the setting of the carbon peaking and carbon neutrality goals translates into great prospects for the "blue carbon" assessment industry.

Blue carbon refers to the carbon captured and stored by the world's oceanic and coastal ecosystems such as mangroves, salt marshes and seagrass beds.

Gui Jianfang, an academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and a researcher at the academy's Institute of Hydrobiology, shed light on the aquacultural seed industry. He analyzed the opportunities and challenges facing the "blue granary" in the process of its transformation and upgrading.

"With the continuous advancement of gene technology, precision breeding is now capable of cultivating 'perfect fish' featuring quality meat, high yields, few diseases and speedy reproduction," Gui said, adding this will help ensure sustainable production of aquatic food and protect aquatic habitats and biodiversity.

To introduce Xiamen's ocean culture to a wider audience, the second Chinese Ocean Culture Forum in Xiamen took place on Saturday as part of ocean week.

The forum explored the core values and rich content of Chinese ocean culture by looking back at the history of China's ocean civilization, Zeng Dongsheng, director of the Xiamen bureau of ocean development, said in his opening address at the forum. The bureau organized the forum in collaboration with Xiamen University.

"We will start from telling the maritime culture stories from southern Fujian and Xiamen, and strive to create a platform for facilitating exchanges in the ocean culture sphere and for displaying achievements in the area as well," Zeng noted.

The ocean week also featured an ocean-themed carnival, which presented activities including a sailing race, an ocean science day, a kite festival and performances of Gezai Opera, a popular art form in southern Fujian and Taiwan.

The forum also witnessed the release of the 2022 edition of the Blue Paper on Maritime Culture: Report on the Development of China's Maritime Culture. The blue paper series is prepared by institutions including maritime colleges, research institutes and museums across the country.

As the fourth edition of the series, the 2022 blue paper presents a comprehensive summary of the developments in the ocean culture industry, maritime archaeology and the protection of maritime cultural heritage that have taken place since the start of the year.

To date, the annual World Ocean Week in Xiamen has been held 17 times. The past 16 sessions have altogether welcomed more than 2 million participants, including officials and experts from nearly 130 countries and regions and close to 20 important international organizations.

This section is sponsored by the Xiamen bureau of ocean development.

YOUTH

A woman in Yunnan has been leading an effort over the past decade to help children on the autism spectrum, **Li Yingxue** reports.

Pushing for public awareness

Since she founded Look at Me, a children's development center in Kunming, Yunnan province, in 2010, Sha Jingmei, 38, has focused her efforts on helping kids on the autism spectrum.

She says the children should not be labeled as those with "social interaction difficulties, language issues, anxiety" and similar tags despite facing such challenges.

Children with autism are like "people inside a bottle who can clearly see the world outside, but can't get out of the bottle to communicate with others", she says, adding that in order to help the children, people should try to understand them first.

"Children with autism will not behave the same way as other children. When meeting them on the street, please don't look at them with a discriminatory look. Sometimes they just need a kind look which can make them less psychologically tense and stressful," Sha says.

From giving the children professional rehabilitation training to helping them better adapt to society, Sha's work aims to improve their quality of life and increase public awareness of autism.

So far, Sha has provided professional rehabilitation training to more than 400 children with psychological disorders, solved problems of going to school for over 500 families and secured over 6 million yuan ($851,400) in funding for children with disabilities.

In 2002, she applied to become a speaking coach in Kunming. She thought the job was to teach Mandarin, which the then-17-year-old girl from the Yi ethnic group in Yunnan's mountain area was herself not too confident about.

"When I started the job I realized that speaking training was not to teach people to speak correctly, but it was about teaching children with pre-lingual deafness to talk starting by making sounds," she says, adding that during her four months her job was to make a three-year-old girl adapt to language.

Sha was so stressed back then that she could only sleep for four hours daily, yet found it hard to teach the girl to talk. "Even when you grabbed her favorite snack, she would not make a sound," Sha recalls.

When she finally heard the girl cry, Sha was happy. But she left the job later to join a kindergarten as a teacher and then taught at a primary school. When the new semester started, Sha noticed the little girl was among the new students at the school. What surprised Sha was that the girl who didn't talk at all earlier was then calling her "teacher" in a clear voice.

"I realized I should not have given up two years ago, and the efforts made for children with disabilities were worth it," Sha says. "I could have been the teacher who taught her how to speak out."

Sha then decided to return to special education and became a language training teacher at Yunnan Disabled Persons' Federation.

"The best time to rehabilitate children with autism is before they turn 7, and training for these children cannot be delayed," Sha says.

With that thought in mind, Sha quit her job and founded the children's development center in the provincial capital Kunming that provides training in behavior, cognition, language, understanding and social integration in individual and group classes. Each training class is set according to a child's development requirements and the group classes conduct teaching and training in music, dance, sports, arts and crafts.

"Hopefully, after the rehabilitation training, our children will be able to take care of themselves and integrate into society," Sha says.

Her center has met many difficulties since its founding, because of the misunderstanding about children with autism in society. For example, the children would often make a lot of noise that affected the surrounding residents who complained to local authorities. To provide a better environment for the children, Sha got the center relocated several times.

"Being in the special education industry, you need a kind of self-cultivation that can make your mind calmer and more rational," she says.

Sha regularly arranges psychological counseling for her teachers so that the team can stay longer in special education which is better for the children.

Ma Shiyan, 28, director of Look at Me, remembers the time she joined Sha's team 4 years ago and was at a loss when a boy got emotional. Sha came and easily smoothed the boy's emotions.

Ma has learned a lot from Sha and is touched by her positive energy whether dealing with children or the difficulties when running the training center.

"Sha knows the condition of each child at our center, and when we discuss one child's case, she can often associate it with another kid's case," Ma says.

Besides teaching and training, Sha also tries to find ways to raise funds for the families that have children with autism and need financial help.

"As a member of Kunming Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Sha always submits proposals about children with disabilities in the city," Ma says.

Sha has called on college students in Yunnan to join volunteer efforts to help people with disabilities. Since 2014, she has visited universities to introduce autism-related awareness to the students and arrange events for them to join.

"Instead of lying in their dorms on a weekend afternoon, I think they can take part in a public service activity to know more about children with autism. Even though they might not work in special education in the future, when they get into society, at least they can provide more understanding when meeting autistic children," she says.

Sha says in recent years special education in Yunnan has noticeably progressed, with teaching teams growing and the supporting hardware being updated, especially for some remote ethnic areas.

She has set her plans for the development of her training center and one step is to strengthen cooperation with organizations outside Yunnan.

Sha has launched a team project to draw more attention to autism in the hopes that the government will give more funding and supporting policies to institutions that provide rehabilitation for children with autism.

"During the past decades, besides more government support, parents have also become more aware of autism and they are looking for a scientific approach to the children's education," Sha says.

With 30 staff members, the training center now teaches around 70 children from ages 2 to 16 on three separate campuses in Kunming. Some of the students have left after training for regular kindergartens or primary schools, or special education schools.

When naming the training center Look at Me 12 years ago, Sha says she hopes society would pay more attention to children on the autism spectrum. Now, she has furthered the goal to help the children take care of themselves, as well as have jobs to sustain. Some of the older children from the center have found jobs in a local coffee company or at a bar. In the future, Sha aims to find more jobs for such children.

Working in special education means dealing with different challenges, and this makes Sha feel she is alive. "You are thinking of how to solve different problems each day," she says.

Sha says the biggest change for her since starting the work is getting a different mentality. "Before I used to think that these children were just poor, but now I feel full of positive energy seeing their families. Their spirit of not giving up always encourages me."

Contact the writer at liyingxue@chinadaily.com.cn

Youth ENDEAVORS

From top: Sha Jingmei teaches autistic students at her training center. Sha trains volunteers in Kunming. She celebrates the Children's Day with children with autism.

PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

> "Speaking training was not to teach people to speak correctly, but it was about teaching children with pre-lingual deafness to talk starting by making sounds."
>
> **Sha Jingmei,** autism therapist

Maltese students get a taste of Chinese tea culture

VALLETTA — Around 20 students from the University of Malta took part in a Chinese tea-tasting event on the campus on Wednesday to add a special flavor to their Chinese-language course.

For most students, it was their first time receiving an expert introduction to the rich Chinese tea culture and traditional ways of making tea, with special attention to choosing the right water temperature for Chinese tea.

The event was hosted by Confucius Institute at the University of Malta. The master of the event was Sun Yi, a teacher at the institute.

She started the event with a brief introduction to Chinese tea culture, followed by a practical demonstration of handling the different kinds of aromatic tea leaves.

She described the central role of tea in the daily life of Chinese people and taught students how to pronounce "drink", "tea" and "good" in Mandarin.

Then students were put to the test by being asked to form three different sentences with just the three words in a different order in Mandarin.

> The tea-tasting event was very relaxing and culturally enriching."
>
> **Francesco Gellel,** student

Exquisite desserts, such as mung bean cakes and fresh flower cakes with edible roses as a major ingredient, accompanied the tea tasting activities, much to the delight of the participants.

"I love Chinese tea very much," says Lexuri Vazquez, a third-year student majoring in international relations.

She says she hadn't really appreciated the difference between black and green tea before. Thanks to the tea tasting, however, this will change, she adds.

"I would love to go to China one day," Vazquez says, adding that she hopes to learn about more aspects of Chinese culture in the future.

Francesco Gellel, a first-year student majoring in European studies, shares this sentiment, saying that the introduction to Chinese tea culture took him a step closer to this goal.

"The tea-tasting event was very relaxing and culturally enriching," he says.

Jackie Theuma, office administrator of the Confucius Institute at the university, says she had tasted different kinds of Chinese tea, as the institute's director Ji Nengwen always shared his tea with her and other colleagues.

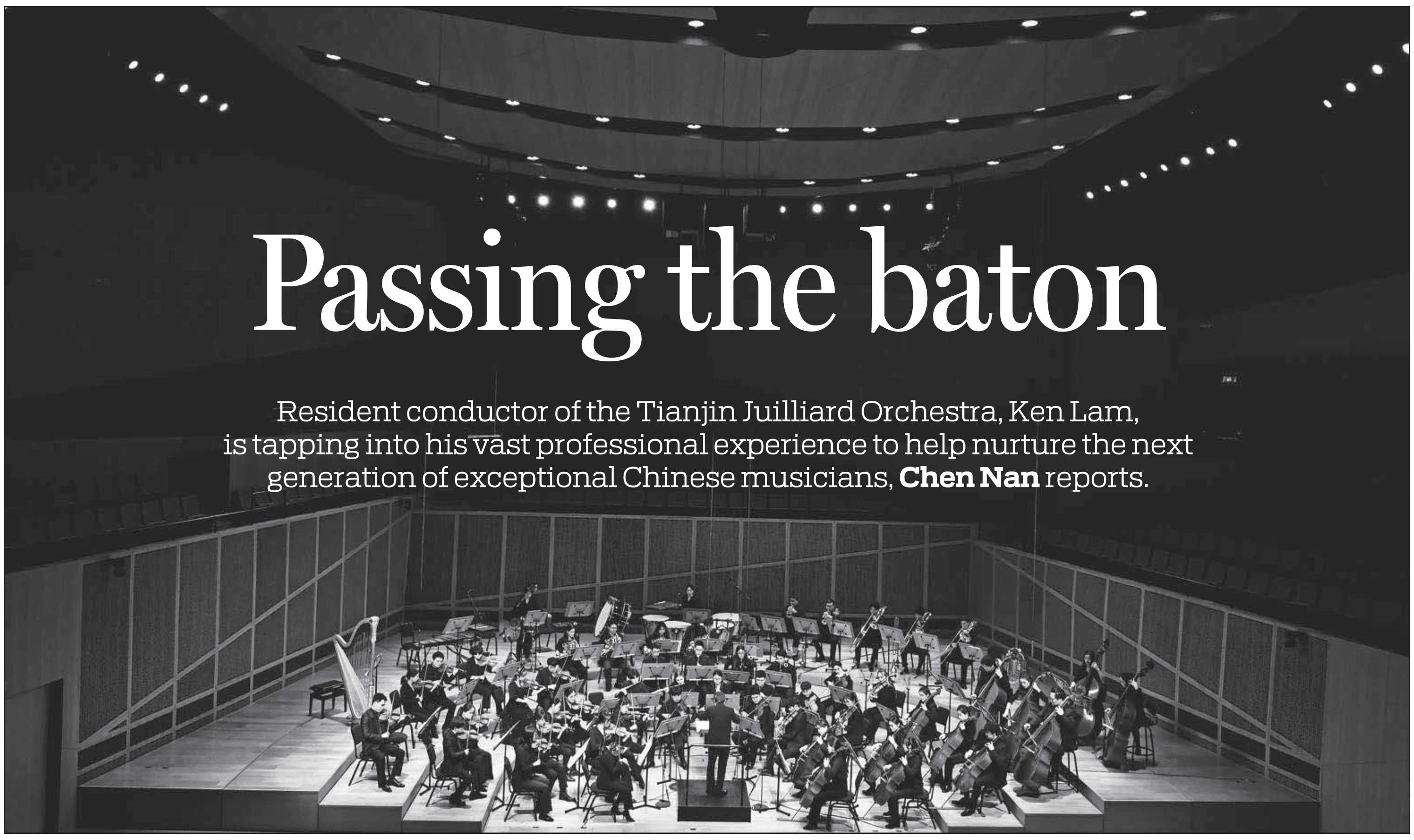
"Chinese tea is very nice, and I love it," Theuma says, who has been working at the institute for 11 years, and Chinese culture and language have become an integral part of her life.

For her part, Sun found the success of the event inspirational. "I will spare no efforts to introduce more aspects of Chinese culture through more events for students, and further stimulate their interest in learning Chinese and understanding Chinese culture," Sun says.

Ji says the Confucius Institute holds cultural events as part of its Chinese-language teaching program, to give students an opportunity to better understand what they learn in the classroom.

XINHUA

YOUTH



Passing the baton

Resident conductor of the Tianjin Juilliard Orchestra, Ken Lam, is tapping into his vast professional experience to help nurture the next generation of exceptional Chinese musicians, **Chen Nan** reports.

As the inaugural director of orchestral studies and resident conductor of the Tianjin Juilliard Orchestra, Ken Lam led the student orchestra of Tianjin Juilliard School in kicking off the new season with a concert featuring Franz Schubert's *Symphony No 8* (also called Unfinished Symphony) and Beethoven's *Symphony No 2* on Sept 25 in the school's concert hall.

Throughout the new season, the orchestra will perform symphonies by composers, including Johannes Brahms, Hector Berlioz and Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. There will also be contemporary music works, including the world premiere of *A Jiangnan Overture*, composed by the school's faculty member Niccolo Athens, and *Fanfare for Sam*, composed by David Serkin Ludwig, who is the dean and director of the music division at the Juilliard School in New York.

The school's music festival, titled Festival Connect, will take place in January 2023, which will celebrate Igor Stravinsky and two contemporary composers: Joan Tower from the United States and Guo Wenjing from China. The program will feature Stravinsky's *The Firebird*, Tower's *Made in America*, which won a Grammy Award for best classical contemporary composition in 2008, and Guo's *Zhudi* (bamboo flute) *Concerto No 2, Ye Huo*, featuring Chinese bamboo flute soloist Tang Junqiao.

"We want to challenge our students technically and musically with works from different eras and by composers of diverse backgrounds," says Lam, adding that the performance season is designed with the goal of preparing students for their future professional careers. "They not only need to play their own parts, but also need to listen to one another."

For Lam, who only arrived in Tianjin about two months ago, working with the school is a new chapter.

Born in Hong Kong, he lived and worked in the US for decades. He played piano and violin as a child, as well as sang in his school choir. Before launching his career as a conductor, Lam studied economics at Cambridge University and was an attorney specializing in international finance for 10 years.

He says he has benefited from studying multiple majors and gaining working experience besides conducting.

"As an attorney, I had to deal with a lot of people such as clients, especially demanding clients. So I learned to work with them. Those skills also work for me as a conductor, because my job is to inspire the orchestra and enable them to communicate with their musical instruments," he says.

When he worked as an attorney in Hong Kong, Lam was given the opportunity to conduct his local community orchestra when its regular conductor became unavailable. He loved it so much that he began taking conducting master classes in Europe, learning from the likes of Gustav Meier and David Zinman.

In 2011, Lam won an international conducting competition with Memphis Symphony Orchestra, and made his US professional debut with the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center in June 2008. Until this year, he had been concurrently music director of both the Charleston Symphony Orchestra, since 2015, and of the Illinois Symphony Orchestra, since 2017.

"The idea of having a resident conductor of the Tianjin Juilliard Orchestra started in 2020 when we had our first group of students of the graduate studies program. However, the plan was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic," says He Wei, CEO and artistic director of the Tianjin school. "The school focuses on collaborative programs, and it's crucial to have a resident conductor who can lead our students to collaborate onstage."

Katherine Chu, dean of the Tianjin school, says, "Lam's work across varied disciplines and cultures — in economics, law and music — places him in a unique position to share the diversity and richness of his professional experiences with our students and faculty members."

From top: Under the baton of conductor Ken Lam, the Tianjin Juilliard Orchestra presents a concert on Oct 30 at the Tianjin Juilliard School's concert hall, as part of the orchestra's new season program; Lam leads students and members of the Tianjin Juilliard Orchestra in a rehearsal on Sept 16; trombone players perform during the concert on Oct 30. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

> We want to challenge our students technically and musically with works from different eras and by composers of diverse backgrounds."
>
> **Ken Lam,** director of orchestral studies and resident conductor of the Tianjin Juilliard Orchestra

The Tianjin Juilliard Orchestra is the school's largest student performing ensemble, comprised of students from the graduate studies program majoring in instrumental and orchestral studies, and instrumental and chamber music studies.

He Wei notes that the involvement of faculty members is very important to the progress of a student orchestra. He also recalls that, shortly after he joined the faculty at Tianjin school, he visited and interviewed Larry Rachleff, who was known for his success in creating the renowned conservatory orchestral program at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music.

"I asked him about the key factors that contribute to the success of a student orchestra and orchestral program. He valued the commitment and involvement of teachers. He said, 'It takes a whole village to educate a student,'" says He Wei, who is a violinist himself. A native of Chengdu, Sichuan province, he has taught at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music for more than 20 years.

As the world's first, and so far, only branch campus of the New York performing arts school, Tianjin Juilliard will also co-present a series of public concerts with a newly formed ensemble of outstanding alumni from both the Juilliard School in New York and the Tianjin school.

Two student soloists will be selected through an annual competition, starting in November, for concerto performances with the Tianjin Juilliard Orchestra in the spring. In February 2023, students from New York and Tianjin will come together in a live collaboration to perform American composer Terry Riley's iconic work *In C*.

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Australian youths find understanding in cultural items

CANBERRA — From exquisite hairpins with flowers and handwoven red bags for Lunar New Year "lucky money", to Chinese emperors' hats with strings of beads, handicrafts by Australian children in Canberra showed their understanding of traditional Chinese personal accessories.

On Thursday, students from five schools in the Australian capital received awards for the 28th Panda Competition, a signature event hosted by the Australian Capital Territory Branch of the Australia China Friendship Society at the Chinese embassy in Australia, for their works. It is named the Panda Competition after the theme of its first edition in 1995.

The students, aged between 4 and 17, and their entries were judged in different age groups.

According to Carol Keil, president of the Australia China Friendship Society ACT Branch, in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic, which made a big difference to the number of schools participating, they have received several hundred entries this year under the theme of traditional Chinese personal accessories, including hats, bracelets, rings, fans and even swords.

"The teachers are very supportive," she says. "Some of the teachers put a lot of effort into helping the children do their research and prepare their entries."

Three 17-year-old girls from St. John Paul II College made a model of a Tang Dynasty headdress as shown in a Chinese TV drama, which grabbed the attention of visitors.

Four-year-old Ava Foster from Mawson Primary School won the third prize in the youngest participant group with a fan she had made.

Talking about why the girl got involved in the competition, her father Andrew Foster says: "Mawson Primary School encourages the children to immerse themselves in Chinese culture."

> Understanding each other's culture from an early age lays the foundation for friendship in the future."
>
> **Song Yanqun,** minister-counselor for culture at the Chinese embassy in Australia

This is also what Keil would like to see.

At the award ceremony, children and their parents watched lion dances and enjoyed the performance of *guzheng*, a traditional Chinese seven-stringed plucked instrument.

Andrew Foster says Ava is going to the kindergarten next year at Mawson Primary School, and will do 2.5 days in Mandarin and 2.5 days in English a week.

"China is a big part of the Australian economy right now," he says, noting the decadeslong relationship between the two countries. "For sure it (learning Chinese culture and language) will be beneficial for Ava in the future. Maybe Ava could be a part of that relationship in some way."

Song Yanqun, minister-counselor for culture at the Chinese embassy in Australia, says this year's competition is special, as 2022 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Australia. He hopes that the children would become "ambassadors" for cultural exchanges of the two countries and influence more people around them.

"The aim of the Panda Competition is to promote Chinese culture," he says. "When little children start getting to know about Chinese culture from a symbol, whether it is traditional accessory or musical instrument, as was the theme of a previous edition, they embark on a journey, from understanding to love. It is a good way of promoting cultural exchange.

"Children are the future," he adds. "Understanding each other's culture from an early age lays the foundation for friendship in the future. When they grow up, they might be scientists, doctors, teachers, or social workers. It will be good if they can play their respective parts in boosting the China-Australia friendship."

XINHUA

Artist draws on tradition to fuel exchanges

TOKYO — This year marks the 30th anniversary of Chinese calligrapher Jin Ou's arrival in Japan.

"In the 30 years since I came to Japan, I have been introducing Chinese culture through calligraphy and seal carving works, and promoting the art exchange of calligraphy and painting between the two countries," he says.

To commemorate the anniversary, Jin recently held an exhibition at the China Cultural Center in Tokyo displaying calligraphy and seal carvings made by him and his students, where Jin said he wanted to help the Chinese people in Japan strengthen their traditional cultural learning and seek their cultural roots from calligraphy.

"*Kanji*, as Chinese characters are called in Japan, come from China, and calligraphy has always been very popular in Japan," he says.

> In the 30 years since I came to Japan, I have been introducing Chinese culture through calligraphy and seal carving works."
>
> **Jin Ou,** Chinese calligrapher living in Japan

Jin, who was born in Wuzhen, East China's Zhejiang province, in 1957, went to Japan for study in 1992. During the period of his stay, he studied Chinese and Japanese calligraphy at the same time, and published *Jin Ou's Calligraphy, Painting and Seal Carving Works* and *History of Japanese Ancient Seals and Ancient Seals Research*.

Over the years, Jin has actively participated in various large-scale cultural exhibitions in Japan and performed his seal carving skills, which has attracted a lot of attention from the Japanese media.

In 2002, Jin opened the Jin Ou Art Academy, teaching calligraphy, painting and seal carving. "In Japan, calligraphy, painting, and seal carving are generally taught by three teachers, but I teach the three categories at the same time, all by myself, and I modify my way of teaching to suit each student's personal interests and aptitudes," he says.

Because of the distinctive teaching method, many Japanese visit the school to learn art, and Jin's academy is gaining popularity in Japan.

Hajime Matsunaga has been studying calligraphy and seal carving with Jin for nearly 20 years. At the exhibition, his work *Four Divine Beasts in Seal Carving* is placed in a prominent position. His art and skills shine through the vivid depiction of the four mythical beasts, as well as the carved characters.

"I come to the school almost every day now, and I am very happy to learn calligraphy and seal carving and about classical Chinese culture," Matsunaga says.

In 2004, Jin and several other Chinese calligraphers in Japan established the All-Japan Chinese Calligraphers Association, hoping to provide a greater platform for, and promote more in-depth exchanges between, the Chinese and Japanese calligraphy and seal-cutting circles.

Nowadays, Jin instructs a monthly calligraphy class at the China Cultural Center for overseas Chinese for free. "Calligraphy not only brings peace of mind to people, but also allows them to relive traditional Chinese culture and find the roots of their souls," he says.

XINHUA

SPORTS

SOCCER

A cardboard cutout of Neymar is held aloft at the National Museum of Qatar during a "Brazil fan activity" in Doha last Friday ahead of the World Cup. REUTERS

Brazil's new generation breathes fresh life into World Cup hopes

Tite's talented young forwards ease Selecao's dependency on Neymar

Wingers, false nines, target men and center forwards in the Brazil squad for the World Cup are giving coach Tite a nice selection headache up front.

As the five-time champion aims to win the title for the first time in 20 years, Tite also knows his attack has limited experience on the sport's biggest stage. That's something which he hopes will be offset by an abundance of skill, speed and aggressiveness to worry — or terrify — opposing defenses.

Tite will have almost a week of training in Turin, Italy, to tune up.

The nine forwards in the 26-man squad are Neymar, Vinicius Jr., Rodrygo, Richarlison, Raphinha, Antony, Gabriel Jesus, Gabriel Martinelli and Pedro.

Only Neymar, from the 2014 and 2018 World Cups, and Jesus, Brazil's starting striker four years ago in Russia, have experience in the tournament. The other seven will make their World Cup debuts in Qatar.

Tite has said he plans to use all nine. The main decision is where to play Neymar, a regular starter for 10 years. The coach has leaned toward a formation with Neymar adopting a midfield role in support of the attack, like "a bow behind three arrows", according to Tite.

With Neymar as a midfielder-striker, Brazil's most promising starting lineup has included Vinicius on the left, Richarlison as a target man, and Raphinha on the right. Many expect that to be the chosen option in the opening match against Serbia on Nov 24. Switzerland and Cameroon are also in Group G.

The alternative would be to place Lucas Paqueta on the left in a position where he could move into the midfield. That was often the case in World Cup qualifying but Brazil would be choosing a player who is recovering from a shoulder injury over Vinicius, who scored the winner for Real Madrid in the Champions League final this year.

> "Brazil was very predictable for a while due to its dependency on Neymar. Now he is just the icing on the cake, the guy who will deliver something extra. Brazil has other players up front. A lot of players."
>
> **Zico,** Brazil soccer great

"Brazil was very predictable for a while due to its dependency on Neymar," Brazil great Zico said in September. "Now he is just the icing on the cake, the guy who will deliver something extra. Brazil has other players up front. A lot of players."

Richarlison, who has seven goals for Brazil in his last seven internationals, will likely have Neymar behind him. Vinicius — or Paqueta — and Raphinha will be allowed to focus on their attacking skills because the likely left and right backs, Alex Sandro and Danilo, are expected to play more defensively.

If Vinicius and Raphinha fail to deliver, Martinelli and Antony will be warming up on the bench. Jesus and Rodrygo can also play on the flanks. If Paqueta starts and struggles, Tite could still field a rested Vinicius or Martinelli.

Tite's squad also leaves three players in waiting if Richarlison fails.

Jesus has improved as a finisher since the tournament in Russia and is also agile enough to open gaps for box-to-box midfielders such as Fred and Bruno Guimaraes to exploit. Rodrygo can do likewise while Pedro was the top scorer at the latest Copa Libertadores.

Pedro, who scored 12 in 13 matches for champion Flamengo, could end up as the team's main striker during the World Cup. Tite has previously praised the player's "unique" style and said he has an ability to "follow the quick thinking of midfielders".

Experience could also influence bringing Jesus into the starting lineup when the tournament moves to the knockout stage if Brazil, as expected, advances from its group. Four years ago, Jesus failed to score in Russia but says he's ready to make an impact this time.

Many were upset that Liverpool's Roberto Firmino, Atletico Madrid's Matheus Cunha and Flamengo's Gabriel Barbosa were not chosen. And Brazil great Ronaldo, who scored both goals against Germany in the 2002 World Cup final, said 16-year-old striker Endrick of Palmeiras should have been selected.

"If I could take one, just to be a part of it, with little chance of playing for real, I would take Endrick," Ronaldo said on his YouTube channel. "It would be a sensational experience for him and for the future of the national team."

AGENCIES VIA XINHUA

Bayern wonderkid Musiala poised to spearhead Germany

One of Germany's top players at the World Cup in Qatar could easily have been in the England squad.

Bayern Munich's attacking midfielder Jamal Musiala represented England at junior level before finally opting for Germany last year after being persuaded by then-coach Joachim Loew.

Musiala underlined his case for a starting role at the World Cup with a crucial role in Bayern's 2-0 win over Schalke on Saturday.

Making his 100th appearance for the club at the age of 19, Musiala assisted both goals, one with a backheel pass to Serge Gnabry. His skill was on show when he dribbled past two defenders and rounded the goalkeeper, even if the goal was disallowed for offside.

Among Musiala's admirers is 1990 World Cup-winning captain Lothar Matthaus, who urged Bayern to put him at the heart of the team for years to come, like Barcelona did with Lionel Messi for over a decade.

Jamal Musiala

Bayern coach Julian Nagelsmann praised Musiala's "quick and lively feet" and suggested his fast footwork sometimes made hard work look like good fortune, with the youngster always seeming to be first to a rebound.

Musiala lets his game do the talking and is generally affable and modest in interviews. "It was important that we got the three points to go with a good feeling going into the World Cup break," was his take on his game-winning show against Schalke.

"I think for the first half of the season we did good. We had bad phases but I think to finish off the season strong is good."

Born in southwest Germany to a Nigerian father and a German mother, Musiala spent almost a decade of his childhood in England. He was a youth player first for Southampton, then Chelsea, until signing for Bayern in 2019 at the age of 16.

When the coronavirus pandemic extended the season in June 2020 he made his debut to become Bayern's youngest Bundesliga player ever, three months after that he was the club's youngest Bundesliga scorer.

The coach who gave Musiala his first-team chance back then, Hansi Flick, is now his coach for Germany. After Loew persuaded the teenager to commit to Germany and gave him his first senior internationals, Flick has made him a first-team regular, playing in the last eight games in friendlies and the Nations League.

One quirk of Musiala's burgeoning international career is that of his 17 games for Germany, three have come against England — the team he could have played for instead.

AGENCIES VIA XINHUA

United's Ronaldo conundrum fraught with complications

Cristiano Ronaldo's explosive TV interview with Piers Morgan seems certain to end his Manchester United career.

It is hard to see a way back for the 37-year-old forward, who said he does not respect manager Erik ten Hag and feels "betrayed" by the club.

The question now is whether Ronaldo can secure a transfer in January after failing to leave for a Champions League club before the start of the season.

United was already planning for life without him before excerpts from his interview began circulating on Sunday night — but that process is likely to speed up after his latest public show of dissent.

Ten Hag already had to censure him for leaving a preseason friendly early — and cut him from his squad last month when he refused to come on as a substitute against Tottenham.

Ronaldo displayed an element of contrition on social media later and held clear-the-air talks with Ten Hag before being welcomed back into the fold.

But these fresh comments threaten to be a final strike in terms of the Portugal World Cup forward's relationship with his manager.

"I don't have respect for him because he doesn't show respect for me," Ronaldo told the *Piers Morgan Uncensored* TV show. "If you don't have respect for me, I'm never gonna have respect for you."

Ronaldo also claims there is an attempt to push him out of the club.

That comes despite the five-time Ballon d'Or winner's own desire to leave earlier in the year.

Ten Hag was reluctant to let him go in preseason, not least because of a lack of viable replacements either within his squad or on the market. And that problem remains going into January, when United's pursuit of a new center forward will be further complicated by the typically inflated prices during the midseason transfer window.

United's recruitment team would prefer to do business at the end of the season — and Ten Hag was prepared to make Ronaldo part of his plans for the remainder of the campaign even after the incident against Tottenham.

The feeling at United on Sunday night was that Ronaldo's actions would not be allowed to detract from the positivity generated by Alejandro Garnacho's late winner in the 2-1 victory at Fulham.

Cristiano Ronaldo smiles as he arrives for a Portugal pre-World Cup training session in Oeiras, outside Lisbon, on Monday. AP

Yet the opposite is true — and the former Real Madrid and Juventus forward's behavior has too often been an unwelcome distraction during Ten Hag's four months in charge.

The timing of the interview also ensures it will hang over the club while the Premier League pauses for the World Cup.

Morgan has refused to confirm when it was conducted, which only adds to the impression that it was a premeditated and stage-managed attempt to gain maximum impact.

"The club will consider its response after the full facts have been established," United said on Monday. "Our focus remains on preparing for the second half of the season and continuing the momentum, belief and togetherness being built among the players, manager, staff and fans."

That statement suggest the club's hierarchy was caught by surprise.

The interview could also be interpreted as a message to potential suitors — and Ronaldo will have to hope more come forward than in preseason.

His reputed weekly wages of around 500,000 pounds ($587,000) rule out the majority of clubs in Europe.

If Ronaldo's desire is still to play in the Champions League then the number of possible clubs shrinks further, with that competition now down to the last 16.

Another problem is his unconvincing form this season — with just three goals in 18 appearances.

A good World Cup could see interest in the veteran striker grow.

In terms of a replacement, the picture is hardly any clearer for United than it was during the last window.

Red Bull Salzburg striker Benjamin Sesko was a serious consideration, but he signed a precontract with RB Leipzig, while Darwin Nunez was another target before he joined Liverpool.

So small was the pool of potential forwards that United even explored the possibility of signing veteran Bologna striker Marko Arnautovic, which sparked a furious response from fans.

There is an acceptance among elite clubs that there are precious few emerging players of the profile of Manchester City's Erling Haaland.

That was underlined by Bayern Munich and Barcelona, who both signed strikers in their 30s as they pursued elite scorers earlier this year.

Bayern signed 30-year-old Sadio Mane after selling 34-year-old Robert Lewandowski to Barcelona. Meanwhile, 34-year-old Karim Benzema continues to lead Real Madrid's attack.

Ten Hag hopes Anthony Martial can overcome the fitness issues that have disrupted his United career and is trying to help Marcus Rashford develop into a prolific scorer.

He may have to rely on that pair until the end of the season at the very least, with Ronaldo's comments surely signaling an acrimonious end to his time at Old Trafford.

AGENCIES VIA XINHUA

The Natural Diamond Council's newly appointed global ambassador Lily James meets with students and teachers at the Livingstone House Primary School in Botswana in October. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Diamond mining brings benefits to communities

Remote areas in Botswana among those to receive investment thanks to practices of industry

By YUAN SHENGGAO

From left: Pat Dambe, vice-president of market outreach of De Beers Global Sightholder Sales, classifies diamonds in a laboratory. Naseem Lahri (left), manager director of Lucara Diamond, Eira Thomas (center), CEO of Lucara Diamond, and Lily James, visit the Karowe Diamond Mine in Botswana.

Business insiders say that more female Chinese consumers are buying natural diamond jewelry for themselves instead of waiting for a ring from a man. This has led to a booming market of diamond jewelry in recent years.

"It represents that people's understanding of natural diamonds has become more diverse and complex. The application scenarios have gradually expanded from weddings to all aspects of people's lives," said Mabel Wong McCormick, managing director of the Natural Diamond Council Greater China Region.

The NDC is an independent nonprofit international organization. With a commitment to promote the development of the natural diamond industry, it provides transparent and in-depth information on ethics, sustainable development and industrial innovation on its official website onlynaturaldiamonds.com.cn.

The NDC is constituted by six world-leading diamond companies, such as De Beers Group and Lucara Diamond Corp. The members' businesses span four continents and more than 10 countries, including Canada, South Africa and Botswana.

According to data in 2017, China's younger generations like millennials (born in the 1980s and 1990s) contributed nearly 80 percent to China's diamond jewelry consumption.

The natural formation process of diamonds endows each one with a unique aesthetic feeling beyond human touch, which is consistent with customers' diversified taste in clothes and accessories, she said.

With the control of the COVID-19 pandemic globally, sales of natural diamonds rose significantly, according to the NDC. In 2021, rough natural diamond sales reported 137 million carats, up 26.9 percent year-on-year.

Due to increases in Chinese people's incomes and the expansion of the domestic market, the total imports of finished diamonds in China reached $2.98 billion in 2021. This represents a rise of 61.2 percent compared with 2019, surpassing the high of $2.74 billion in 2018.

Often, mines are located in remote areas and the local communities are short of basic services. Building and operating a diamond mine in a remote area needs about a decade of cultivation, which requires trained and skillful employees.

Those efforts need long-term commitment and cooperation from the NDC and its member enterprises with the local government, community, and employees.

Such cooperation involves local employment and training; procurement of local products and services; support for local enterprises; health and education programs; and a number of environmentally friendly projects.

NDC members work with communities to understand what social development plans there are and provide financial support to develop new public welfare projects.

The vast majority of the workers are from the regions where the mines operate. This is the reason that NDC members tend to cooperate with local communities and governments: to improve the education of the local population and invest resources in apprenticeship programs to help employees develop diverse skills.

In October, the NDC's newly appointed global ambassador actress Lily James visited the country of Botswana. She met with students and teachers at the Livingstone House Primary School, one of four schools in the community that are run by Debswana — a diamond mining company owned by De Beers and the government of Botswana.

This was followed by a visit to Lucara Diamond's Karowe Diamond Mine, as well as the De Beers Global Sightholder Sales in Gaborone, capital of Botswana.

Her last stop was the KGK Diamonds cutting and polishing facility in Gaborone. There she met some employees, a majority of whom are natives, whose livelihoods are supported by the natural diamond industry.

"It's been incredible to experience Botswana for the first time with our ambassador, Lily James. I'd heard so much about the positive effect of the natural diamond industry in this country, but nothing can prepare you for the real experience," said David Kellie, CEO of the NDC.

"The natural diamond industry is an example to others as to how collaborations between governments and businesses can transform the lives of so many people and the communities in which they live."

According to NDC data, it has supported the livelihoods of more than 10 million people worldwide and nowhere have the positive effects been felt more than in Botswana.

Council members take aggressive stance in sustainable practices

By YUAN SHENGGAO

Diamond mining, like all mining, has an effect on the environment. In the search for the precious stones, land and water resources can be affected including discharges of carbon dioxide.

The Natural Diamond Council, established by the world's leading diamond mining companies in 2016, pledged to implement environmentally friendly production and realize sustainable development of the industry in the 35 mining sites they operate.

The council has joined the efforts of its members and local governments in tackling the damage that may be caused to the environment and providing long-term social benefits to the people and society in diamond-mining areas.

Centering on the three fields of environment, community and employees, they have generated $16 billion in social, economic and environmental benefits.

NDC member companies have implemented a series of biodiversity maintenance plans and protected more than 260,000 hectares of land in Australia, Botswana, Canada, South Africa, Tanzania and Russia, which is three times larger than their actual mining areas.

One of the main effects of the modern mining industry on the environment is the emission of greenhouse gases.

Data show that NDC member companies generate 160 kilograms of carbon dioxide per carat of polished diamond.

NDC members are willing to shoulder the responsibility to work together with the local governments and the communities in environmental recovery.

Once they start to operate in mining areas, NDC members think it is necessary to monitor the environmental effect to ensure their activities strictly comply with environmental protection obligations.

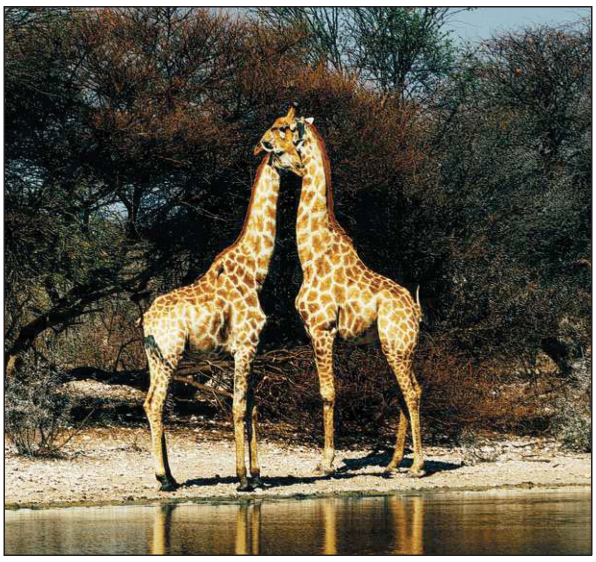
About 99 percent of the waste generated by NDC members are stones, which will be recycled and reclaimed for the land in the process of mine closure and restoration.

When they apply to operate new mines, NDC members will reach an agreement with the local governments to ensure that the interests of all parties are taken into account.

When some mines are set to close, NDC members would ensure the excavation areas are a safe habitat for wild animals and the ecology between its waters and land is maintained.

Most of the NDC member companies advocate wildlife protection and wilderness ecology, which is embodied in their monitoring and protection plans and the cooperation projects they have forged with local governments, communities and conservation organizations.

Through these efforts, NDC members help protect endangered wildlife, including thousands of deer, grizzly bears and elephants.



Two giraffes in the Orapa Game Park. NDC members have helped protect thousands of endangered wildlife.

A major facet of their conservation efforts includes the Moving Giants Program, a partnership between De Beers Group, one of the world's leading diamond miners, and Peace Parks Foundation. Together, they have relocated more than 100 elephants from the overpopulated Venetia Limpopo Nature Reserve in South Africa to the Zinave National Park in Mozambique.

As one of the longest elephant transfers ever attempted, the project ensured both ecosystems would continue to flourish.

Mine closure plan is agreed upon in collaboration with governments and neighboring communities before mining begins and it takes several years to execute following the end of mining activities. This ensures the land is safe for wildlife and people to use.

Wildlife can be spotted easily in the mining areas. The Diamond Route project — a network of eight protected areas established by De Beers Group is a successful case in land protection.

As a part of the Diamond Route, the Orapa Game Park is a network of eight conservation sites covering around 200,000 hectares throughout southern Africa. Orapa, which means "the resting place of lions," is a 48,964-hectare wildlife reserve for many animals including rhinos, giraffes, zebras, springboks and elands.

The Orapa Game Park is an example of the extensive conservation activities that are supported by the natural diamond mining industry. Diamond mining companies invest significantly in conservation efforts, protecting more than 2,590 square kilometers of natural land globally, three times more than what is used for mining.

The De Beers Diamond Route covers more than 1,870 sq km of key habitats in South Africa, Botswana and Namibia. It has created learning and research opportunities for students, scientists and scholars on the vast plain.

This October, the NDC's newly appointed global ambassador actress Lily James visited Botswana to experience firsthand the natural diamond industry.

Botswana has adopted a low-volume tourism strategy to ensure protection of wildlife and nature. This translates into an exceptional experience for tourists where luxurious lodges are operated in a sustainable manner amid flourishing and diverse fauna and flora.

The Selinda Reserve in Botswana is one of the most untouched wilderness areas on Earth.

Located on the banks of the Selinda Spillway and at the entrance of the Linyanti River, it's a private 130,000-hectare reserve with thousands of elephants, African wild dogs and the famous Selinda lion pride.

"I've been awestruck by the natural beauty and the vibrant communities I've seen in Botswana," James said. "To know so much of this land — more than 2,590 sq km globally is protected by the natural diamond industry makes me incredibly proud to be the NDC's global ambassador."

NDC members are also aware of the importance of protecting the water quality and supply in the mining area.

Data in 2016 showed NDC member companies used 73 cubic meters of water for each carat of polished diamond.

Most mines recycle the water used in processing plants, of which 83 percent was recycled on average. The recovery plan became a key factor in reducing water consumption.

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